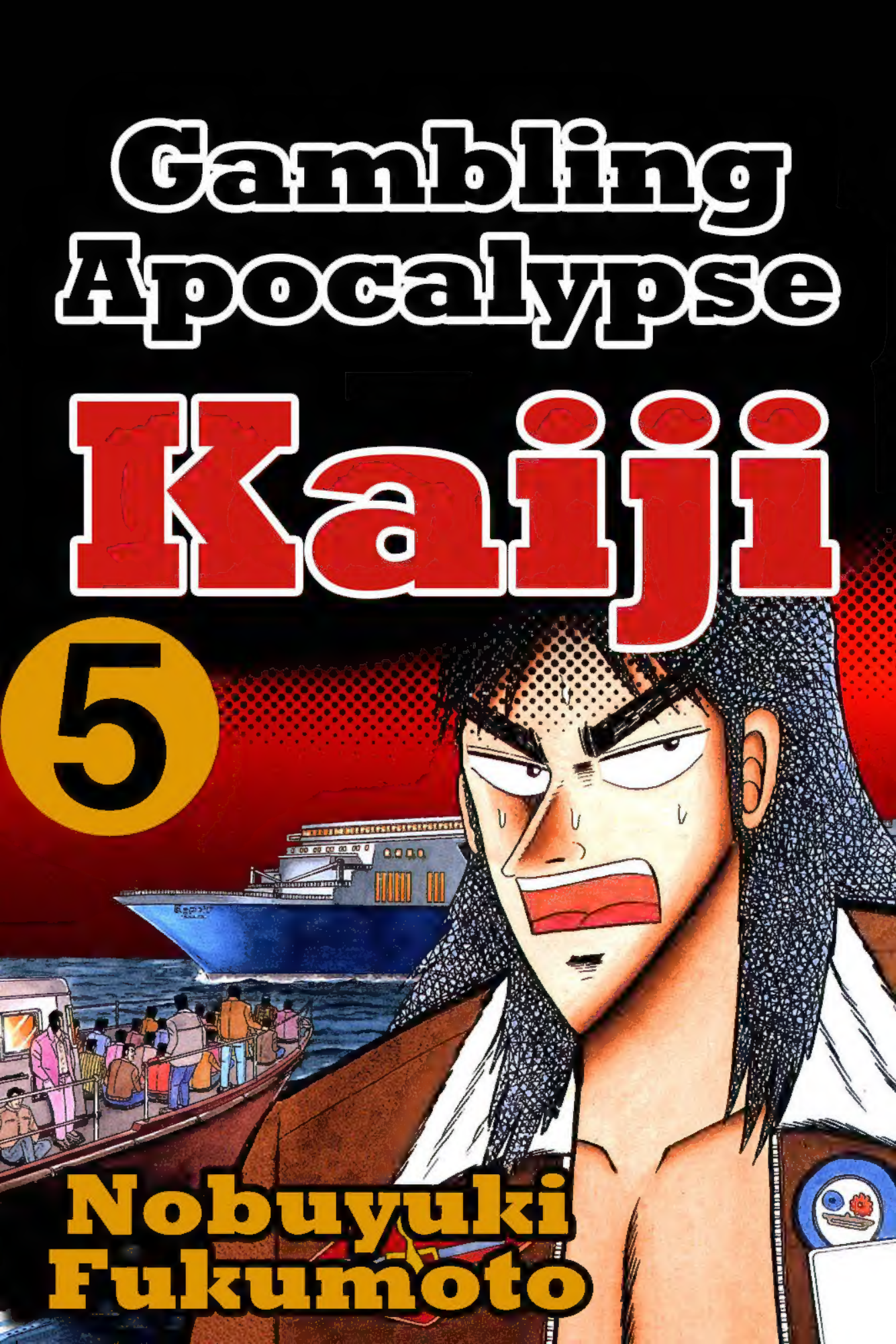
Gambling Apocalypse Kaiji

5



Nobuyuki Fukumoto

Chapter:48 Marked

Chapter:49 Speechless

Chapter:50 Severance

Chapter:51 Corrosion

Chapter:52 Scorn

Chapter:53 Revival

Chapter:54 A New Dawn

Chapter:55 Suspicion

Chapter:56 Emissary

Chapter:57 Downtrodden

Chapter:58 Rally Call

Janken(Rock-Paper-Scissors)rules

Paper wins a stone.

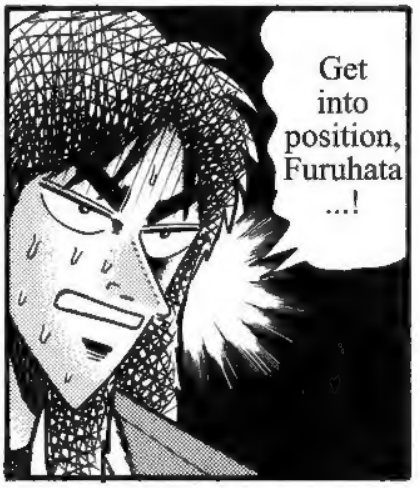
Stone wins scissors.

Scissors win paper.

We're out of time...!
Kaiji-san...!

Check ...!
Kaiji-san...

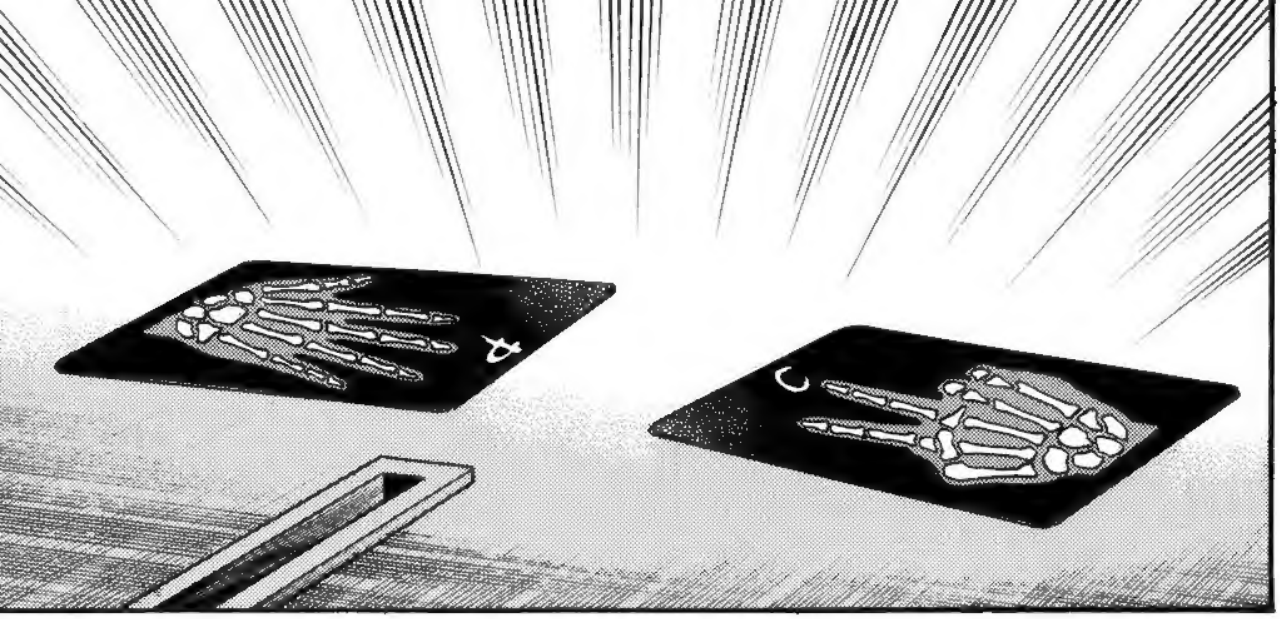
But ...
.....


Get into position, Furuhata ...!

Kaiji-san...
.....
SOB
SOB
SOB

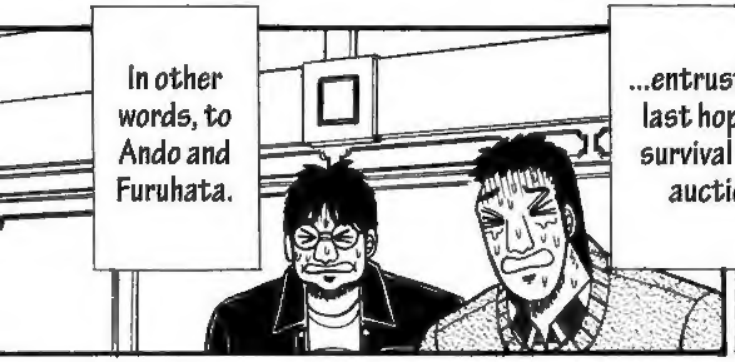
Set ...!
SNIFFLE
.....

Chapter 48: Marked



Less than ten seconds left.
Time was almost up.

K-Kaiji -san...


In other words, to Ando and Furuhata.

...entrusting his last hopes for survival to the auction...
Kaiji handed his last remaining star to Furuhata...

BEEP
BEEP
16
5
18

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
5
4
9

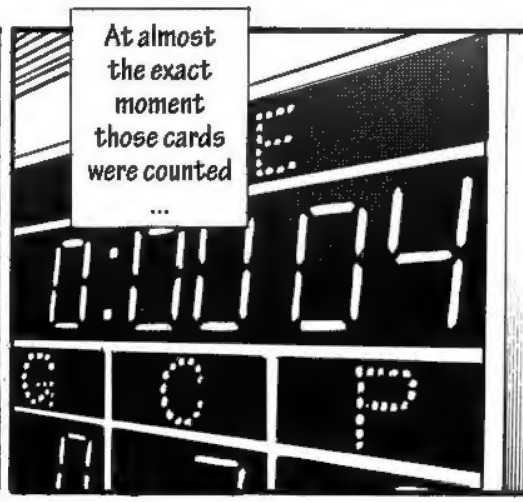
...and headed to the other room.

Kaiji placed his leftover cards into the box...

BEEP

...the loud music which had been reverberating through the hall ceased...
Immediately...

...the counter for the game had ran out.


At almost the exact moment those cards were counted...
STOP

...and the PA system played an address.
Game over...
Game over...!

...and a buzzer began sounding in its stead...
BZZ
BZZ
BZZ

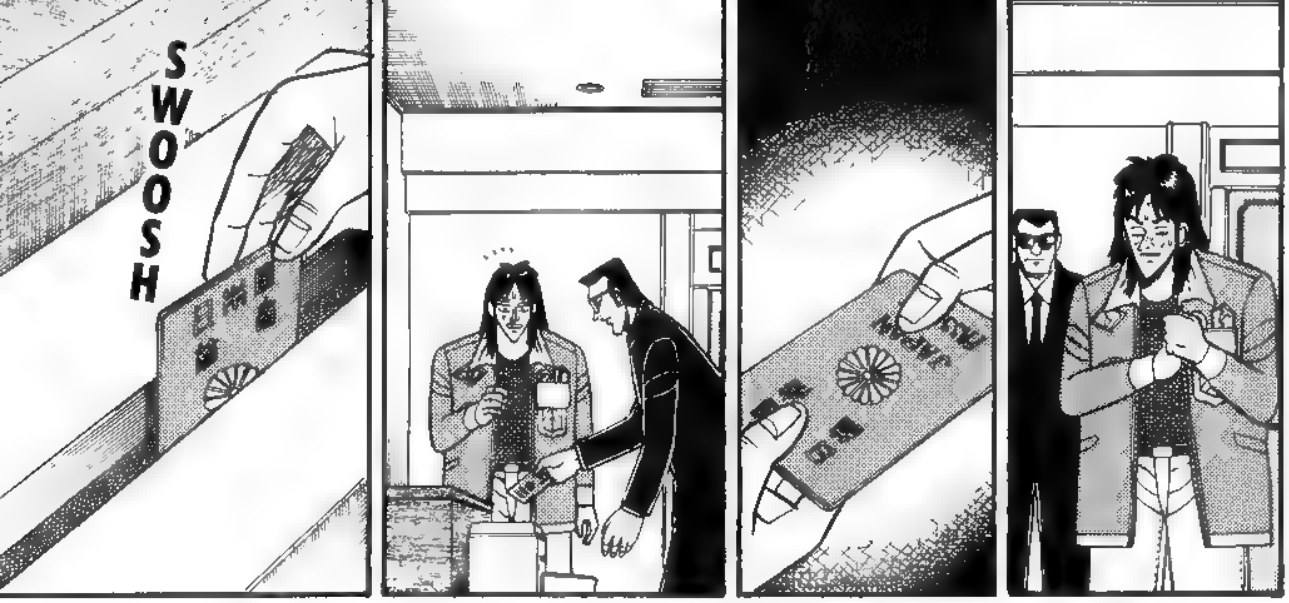
Wait where you are.
Everybody, wait where you are now...!
ざわ・・
ざわ・・

ざわ・・
Will there really be an auction ...?
Now what's going to happen...?
ざわ・・
ざわ・・
Wait where you are...!
...to the other room.
...Kaiji alone was taken...
Amidst the worry and clamor and fear...
・・・・・・
Kaiji-san...!
K-Kaiji-san...!
We're going to get you out...!
Count on us...
Thank you so much ...!
Thank you...

At that moment ...
Ngh ...!
Ngh ...
Move ...!
THUMP
... sense of unease ...
...Kaiji was stuck with a strange and indistinct ...
...nagging at the corners of his mind.
.....
.....
...faint and ghostly ...
...from the other side, the realm of the dead...
Like they're coming across a divide...
Furuhata and Ando's voices seem so far away...

No ...
.....
...then it's already over for me.
After all, if those of us in the other room aren't allowed to join the auction...
The one who's half dead is me...
I've got it backwards ...
THUD
...a huge mistake!?
Have I just made ...
Could it be...
.....
...the reason their voices sound distant and hollow to me.
That's the ugly truth...

Have I screwed up ...?
Your passport ...
FAR


SWOOSH

Not anymore ...
You won't be needing a passport...

Trust me ...
Wh- What are you doing?
Ahh ....!

WHRR
WHRR
WHRR

.....

Take off your clothes. All of them...!
.....

FWAP
Wha
...!

THUMP
Now go.
What are you doing...!?
YURK
It's just for now.
WHOOSH
SIZZ
SIZZ
What's that noise ...?
That smell ...
What is that ...?
Am I in another room ...?
Get off me ...!
You filthy jerks...
Let go...!
CHANG
CLINK
Wh-What are you doing ...!?

SIZZ
HISSS
HISSSSSS
What are you doing ...!?
What are...
MMPH
NRGH
GYAHH
WHOOSH
SIZZ
Let me go...!

SIZZZ

Nraarrgghhhh...!
SSS
HSSS
SIZZZZZZZ

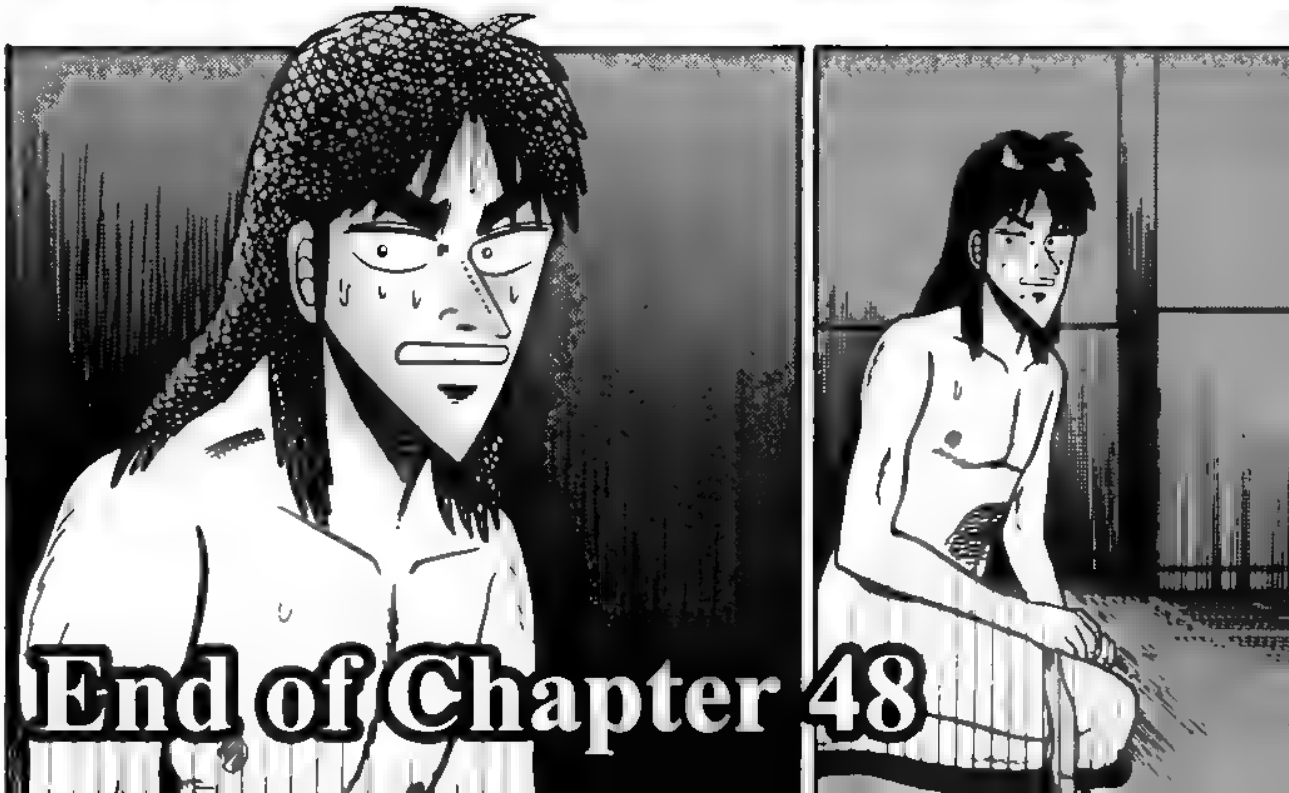
THUD
SLAM
Nrgghh…
THUMP
Get in there …!
21
Ngh …!
Ohhh…
Ohh…
They're crazy …
They're …
What do they think they're doing…!?
They branded me…!
21

Ohhh...
Ohh...

.....
Ah
...

Huh
...?
You there... come over here..
It stinks of failure... a den of bankruptcy
...
So this is the other room...

You're expecting to be saved, aren't you?
Then come on over.
...no one will be able to find you to pick you out.
If you sit in the corner there...

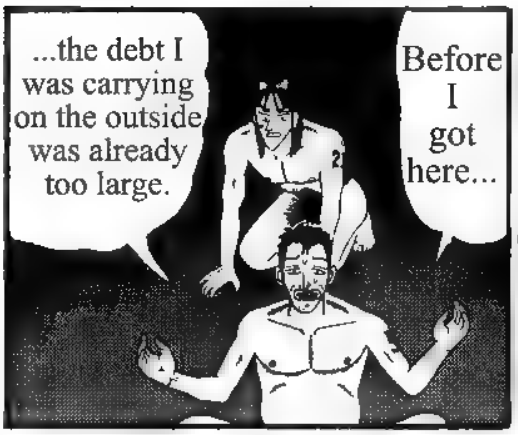


End of Chapter 48

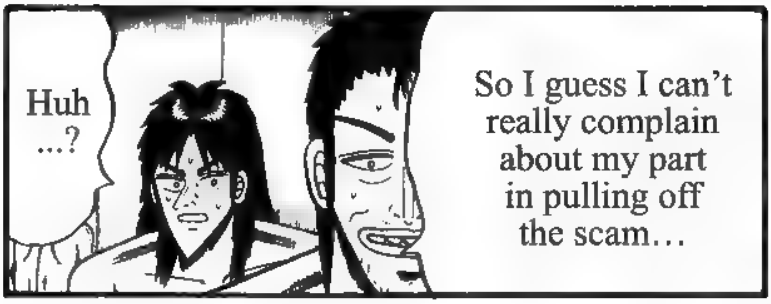
Chapter 49: Speechless

Of course ...
.... something that you know ...?
Is there ...

What do you mean, saved ...?
Um...

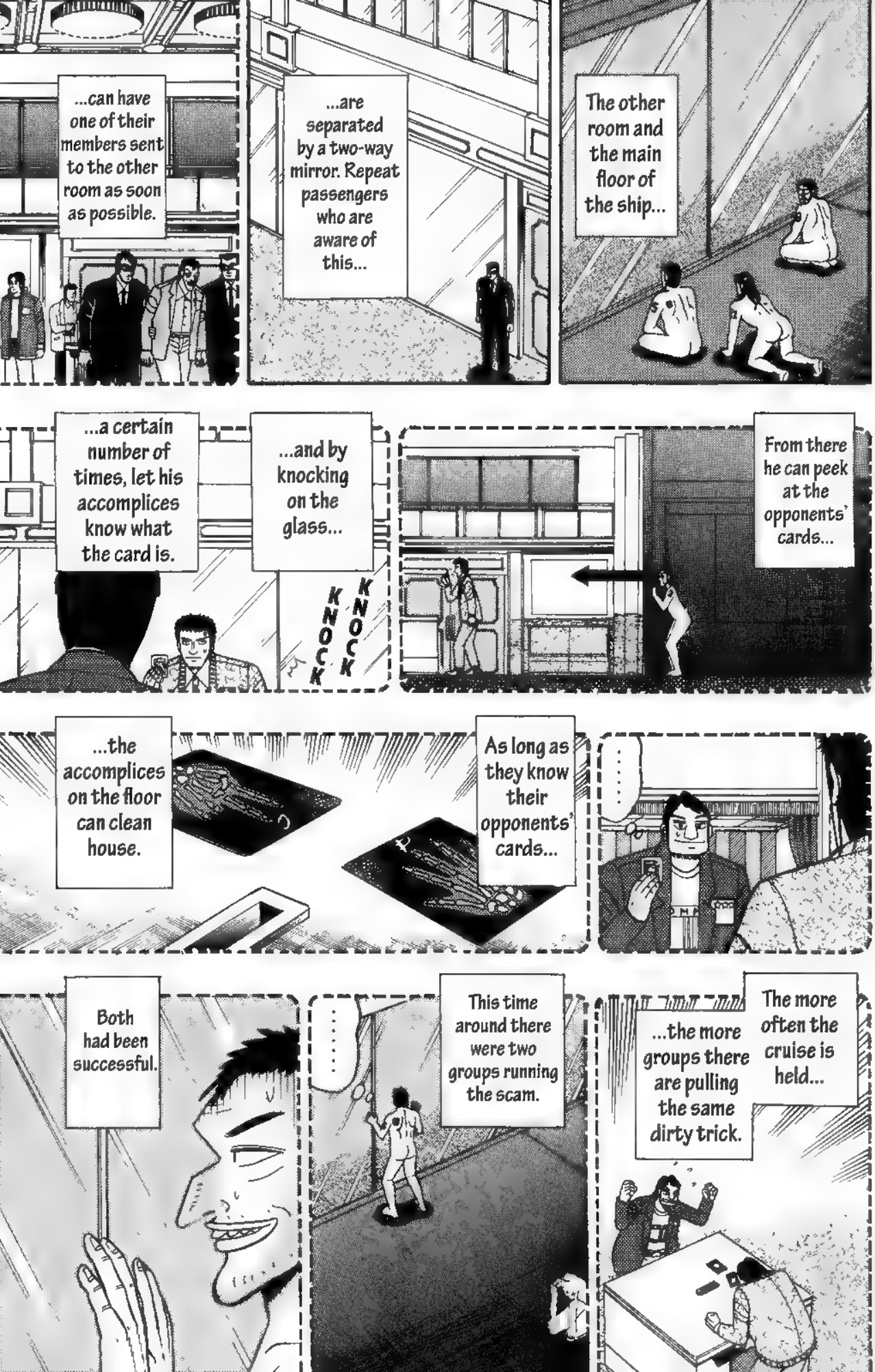

...the debt I was carrying on the outside was already too large.
Before I got here...

Who would put themselves in this position if there was no way out?


Huh ...?
So I guess I can't really complain about my part in pulling off the scam…

A scam...
.....

...in order to even board the ship.
I had to have my friends take on a portion of my debt...


...can have one of their members sent to the other room as soon as possible.
...are separated by a two-way mirror. Repeat passengers who are aware of this...
The other room and the main floor of the ship...
...a certain number of times, let his accomplices know what the card is.
...and by knocking on the glass...
KNOCK KNOCK
From there he can peek at the opponents' cards...
...the accomplices on the floor can clean house.
As long as they know their opponents' cards...
Both had been successful.
This time around there were two groups running the scam.
...the more groups there are pulling the same dirty trick.
The more often the cruise is held...

...of those 14, 3 were handed over by Okabayashi before he left...
Of course ...
...so the number was actually only 11 stars.
...had milked the scam for a total of 14 stars.
The two group members on the floor...
Easy money.
One group was Okabayashi and his friends.
.....
...and Sakai, the man in the sunglasses.
...consisted of Ishida, who had been persuaded to join in on the strategy partway through...
The other group...
Ahh ...
It was a two man group.
Kaiji had seen Sakai persuade Ishida with his own two eyes...
Indeed ...
It's you...

Huh ...?
You're that kid who borrowed 10 mil. yen.
Ahh ....
I mean ...
Are you here on purpose, too...?
Yeah ...
Ah ...
Kaiji-kun, right...?
Then it's alright...!
Yeah ...
Well ...
.....
Did somebody promise to save you before you came in here...?
...I'm not sure how thankful we should really be.
Considering the situation ...
But ...
.....
Yeah ...
Thank goodness ...

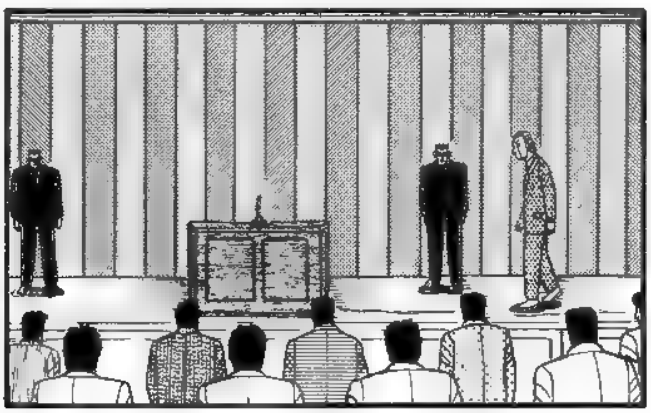
We may be in a jam now...
Don't worry ...
...is bad enough.
Being here in the first place...
You see ...
...but it's only temporary. We'll be out of here soon.
Hmph ...
Ahh ...
I'm so grateful it makes me cry...
When I think about that...
... the two of us just seem downright lucky.
...most of the people in here are already out of hope.
.....
WAHHH
WAHH

...all that crazy debt we've got will be cancelled out.
Plus, once we're out of here...
Right?
... guess you have a point.
I...
.....
We won't have to worry about debt collectors anymore...
We can start over.
.....
We can start over...!
The two of us can start over...!
Kaiji-kun...
...thanks to Sakai-san...
This is all...
Yeah ...

.....
..was the luckiest thing that could have happened to me.
Meeting him...
Sakai-san's the one who showed me how to survive...
It's all thanks to him.
Huh ...?
Haven't you figured it out yet...?
Hmph ...
For instance ...
At the very last moment, the organizers might still upset your precious plans.
Shh ...!
They wouldn't do that...
No way ...!
...that they suddenly decide not to hold the auction...
...there's still a 1% chance or so...

...
Tonegawa.
The scoundrel who will be deciding our fates tonight...
Here he comes...

.....
Ahh
...



ざわ..ざわ..

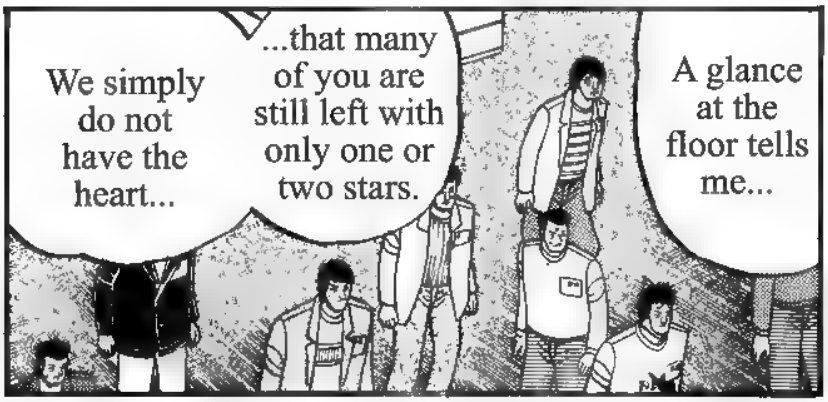
ざわ..

ざわ...

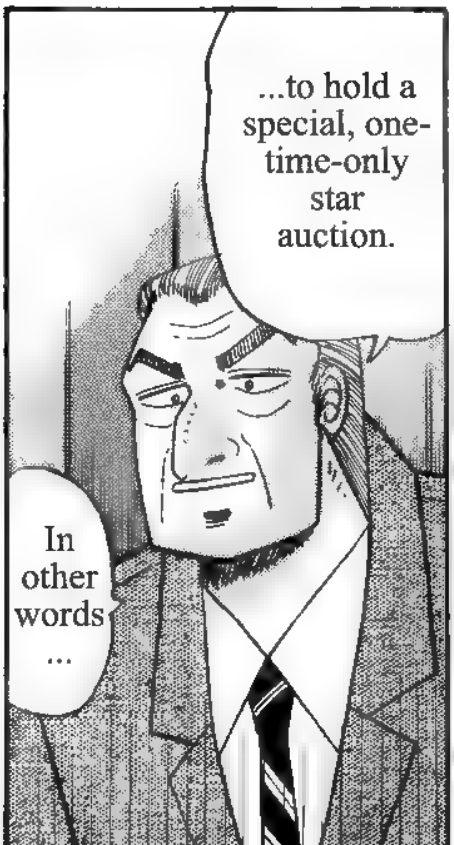
0:00 00
G C P
0 3 0
ざわ…
ざわ…

Greetings.
.....
.....
He he...
Four hours have passed.
Tonight's game...
...is now over.
The rule...
It's a shame, but the rules...
...are the rules in Limited Janken, no exceptions.
...must go to the other room.
...is that all those with less than three stars at this point....

No exceptions ...
.....
.....


We simply do not have the heart...
...that many of you are still left with only one or two stars.
A glance at the floor tells me...

However ...
.....


In other words ...
...to hold a special, one-time-only star auction.

...we have decided ...
So after careful consideration by the staff of tonight's cruise...

To save as many of you as we can...
We are here to help...
...to send you to the other room without a chance at salvation.

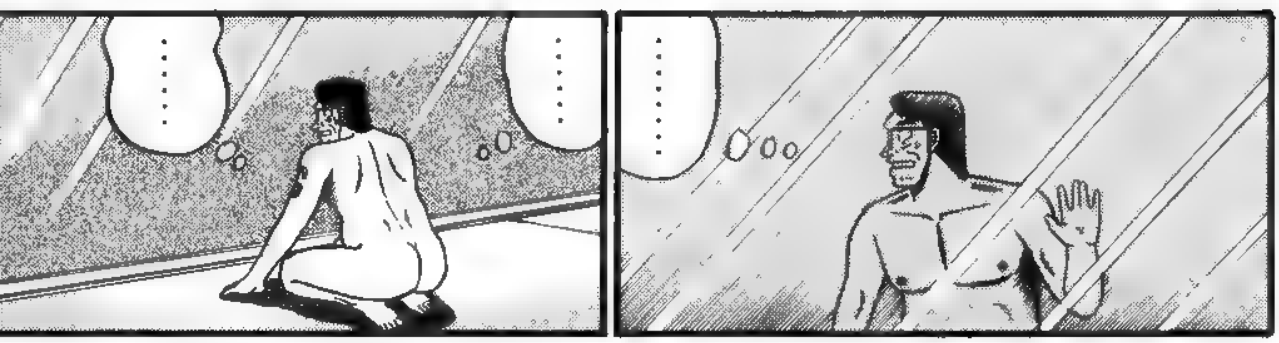
Those of you who reach three stars during the auction will still be saved...!
Tonegawa's speech had clearly been...
ざわ..ざわ..
Alright ...!
.....
ざわ...
...with only two stars, rather than fight it out...
By circulating news that there would be an auction they convinced many to remain on the floor...
...pure sophistry.
ざわ..
But at least the organizers had not reneged on their plans for the auction.
...Tonegawa's speech had been infuriating.
The men in the other room could at least relax on that front...
In that light...
...meaning they would wind up with more people actually sent to the other room.

SHEEN
FLICKER
Without the auction to rely on they would be left entirely helpless.
WHOOSH
ざわ…
ざわ…
Ahhh …
Ahh …
ざわ…

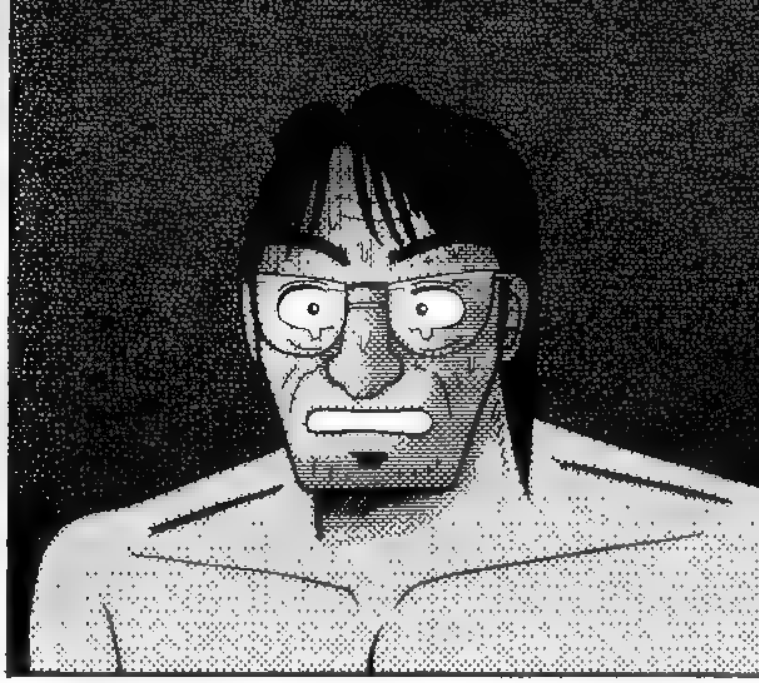
If the lights are on that's a good sign...
Alright ....!
That means that people will be able to pick us out.
They're putting us on display.
Kaiji-kun...
Kaiji-kun.
...we're saved!
It's decided then...
.....
Thank goodness ...
At the last moment I thought they might not go through with it...
The truth is I was worried.
Thank goodness ...
.....

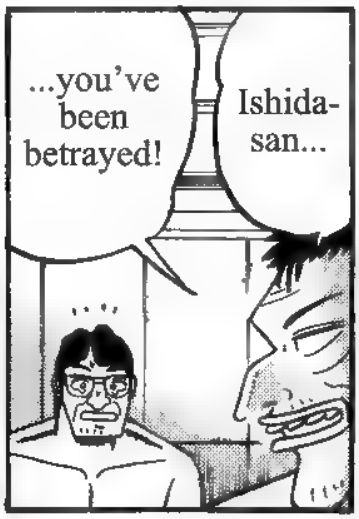
Hehehe
All I need to do is wait for Sakai-san to save me during the auction.
We're saved...
Pops ...
What ...?
.....
I didn't mean to offend you guys...
No, it's nothing ...
What are you laughing about...?
Huh?
Ishida-san, isn't it...?
.....
Funny ...?
That was just too funny...

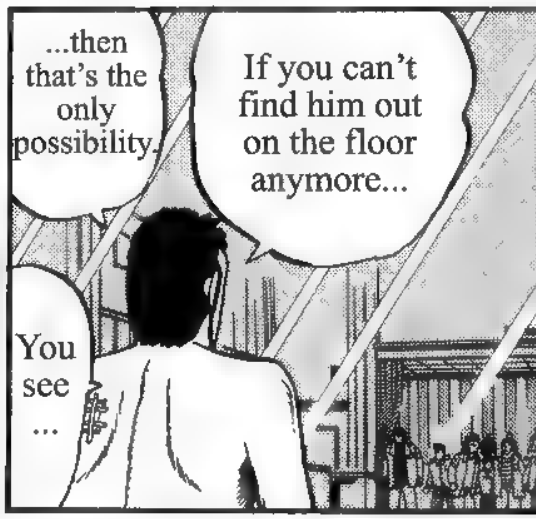
Whaddya mean, where ...?
Where ...?
Huh ...?
Tell me, where's this Sakai cat now...?

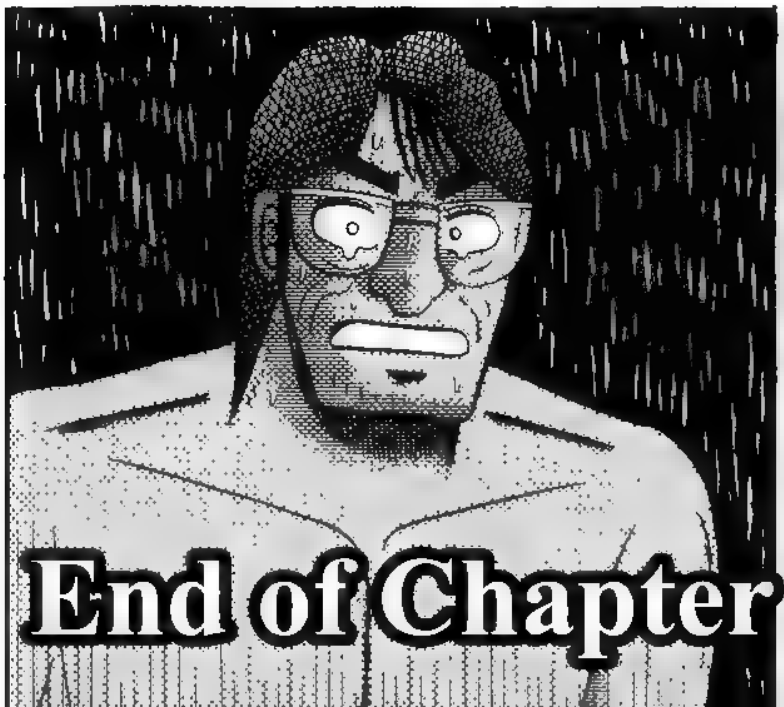

.....
.....
.....

You know he's not in the bathroom.
How long are you gonna keep deluding yourself...?
Maybe he's in the bathroom ...
Up on the second floor...!
Huh ...?
Right now, Sakai is probably kicking back and enjoying a beer.
Seriously ...!?





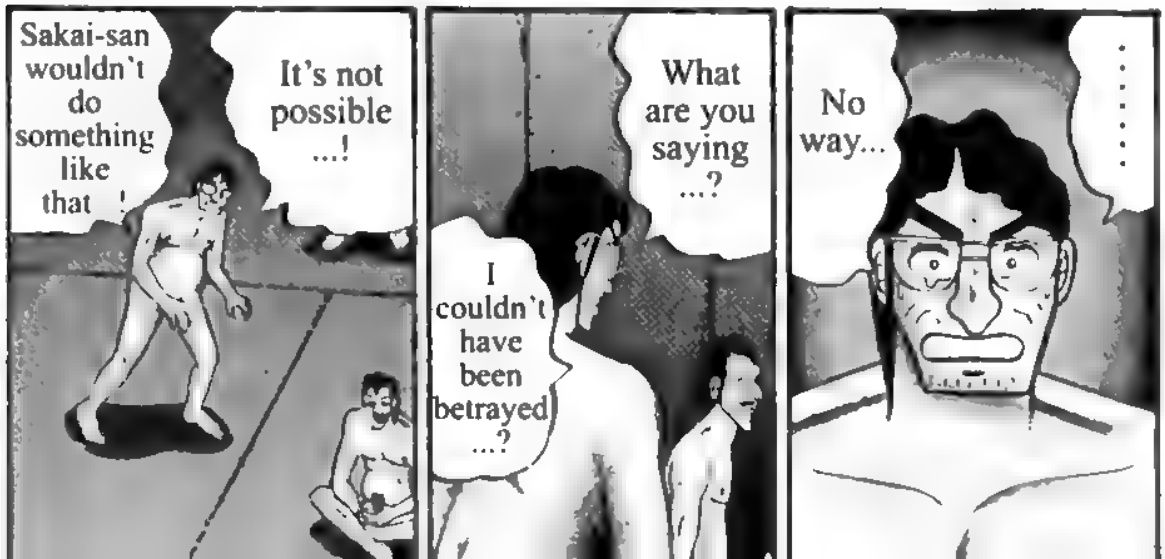




End of Chapter 49

Chapter 50: Severance

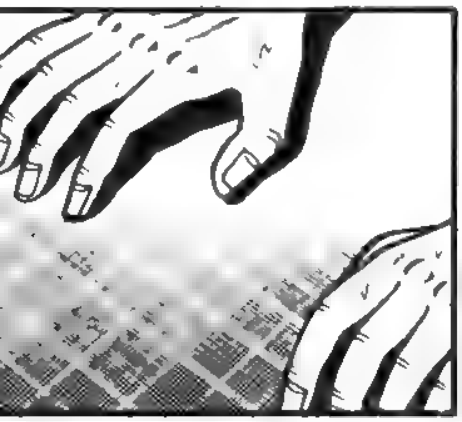
ざわ
……
……
ざわ


Sakai-san wouldn't do something like that !
It's not possible ...!
I couldn't have been betrayed ...?
What are you saying ...?
No way...
……

Somewhere ...
Pops ...
Somewhere ...
He's gotta be out there, somewhere ...
WOBBLE

Gambling
Apocalypse

Kaiji



Ahhhh
...
SOB
SOB

Ahh
...

Oohhh
...!
Arrgghhh
...

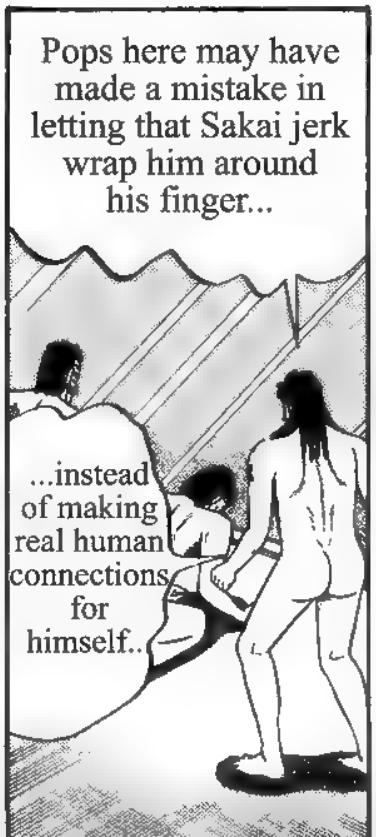
You said it to me yourself.
It's no big mystery.
: Hehehe
Why ...?
... six stars.
Your partner had only taken ...
Repeaters need four stars in order to survive ...
Your partner, Sakai, is a repeater, isn't he?
...that isn't enough to save you.
Unfortunately ...
It goes without saying that he was betrayed...
No one in their right mind would do that...!
Even from the get-go...
...he'd have to pay for another star out of his own pocket.
Which means if Sakai did want to save Ishida here...
This is a gambling ship, it's all about profit.
Four ...?
That's right.

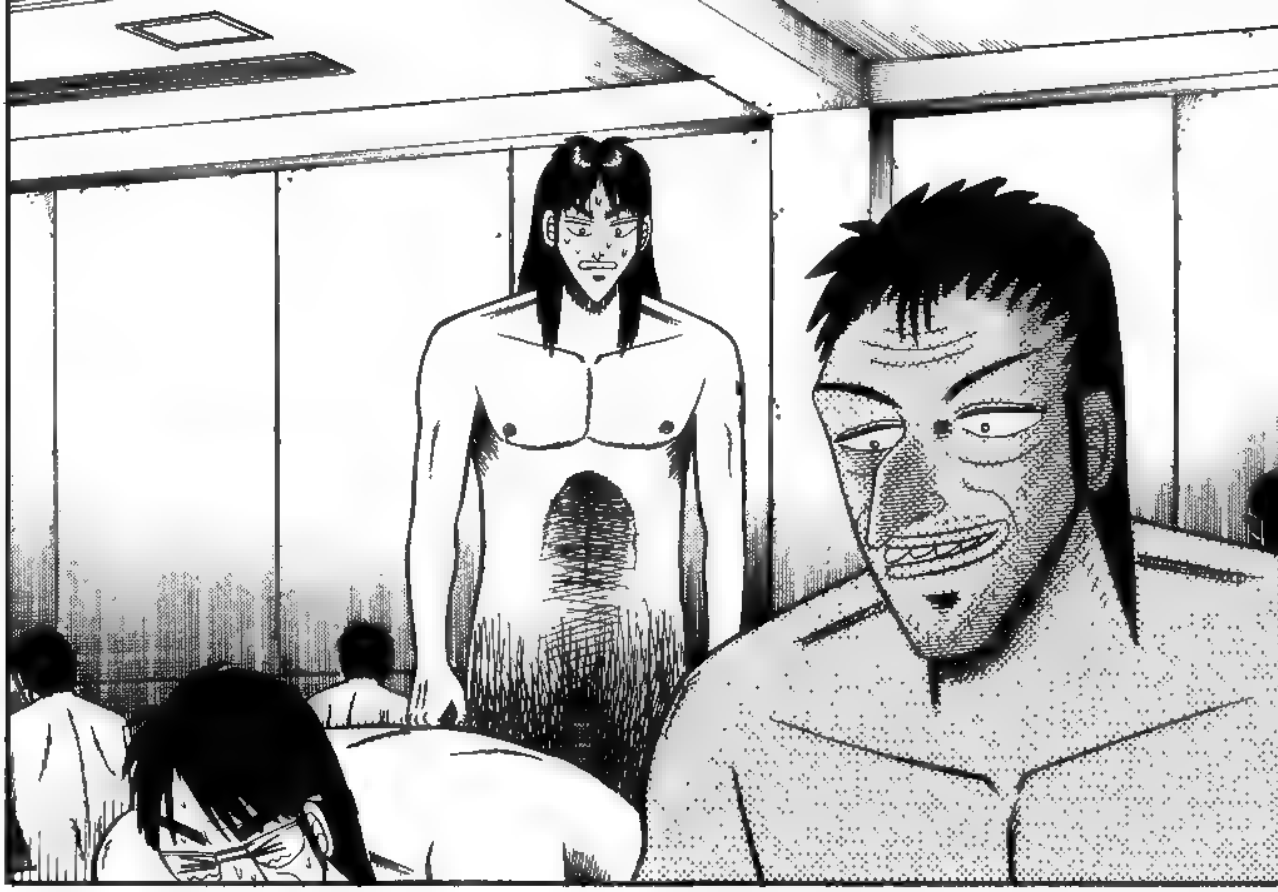
Knock it off...!
...he was just a pawn in his game.
As far as Sakai is concerned ...
...Ishida still would have been betrayed in the end.
...assuming Sakai had managed to get seven or eight stars...

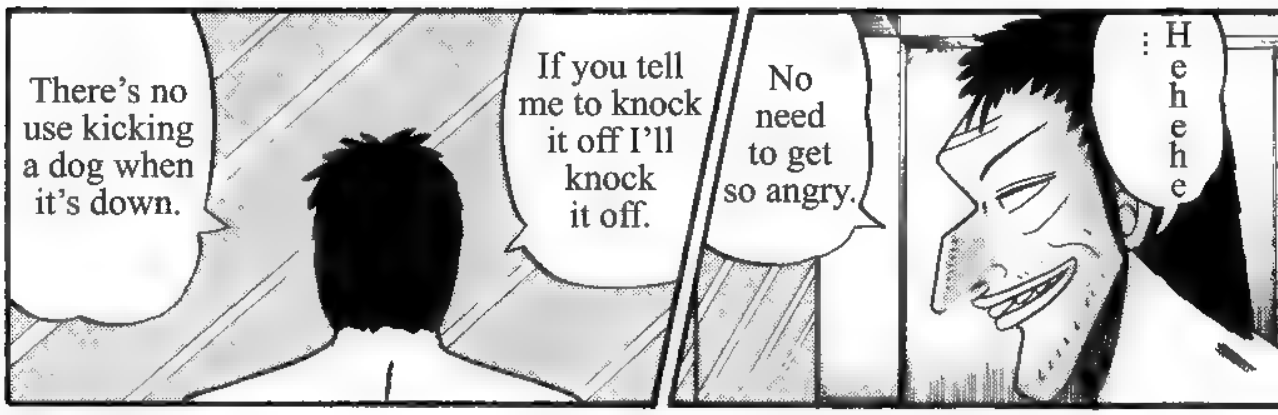
After all...
.....
Why don't you just shut up ...?
That's enough, already ...!

...that Sakai is the clever one for pulling one over and Ishida is some piece of trash...
But that doesn't mean...

...so just knock it off!


Pops here may have made a mistake in letting that Sakai jerk wrap him around his finger...
...instead of making real human connections for himself..




There's no use kicking a dog when it's down.
If you tell me to knock it off I'll knock it off.
No need to get so angry.
: Hehehe

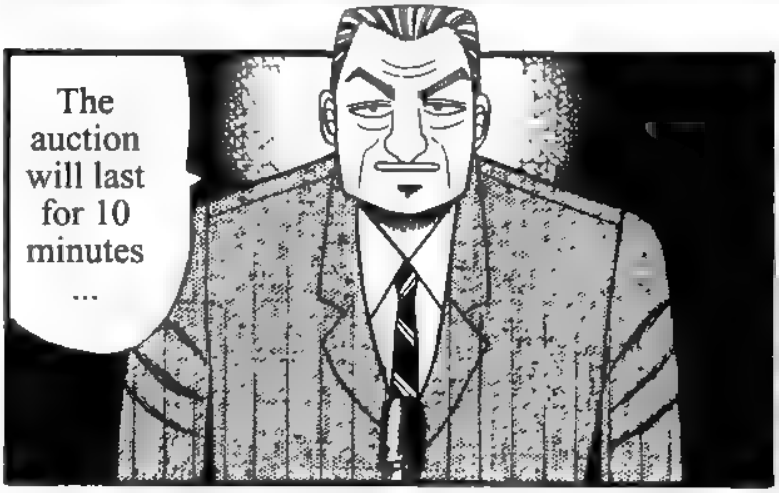
A moment ago you said something about real human connections...
?.....
There's just one thing that's bothering me...
But ...

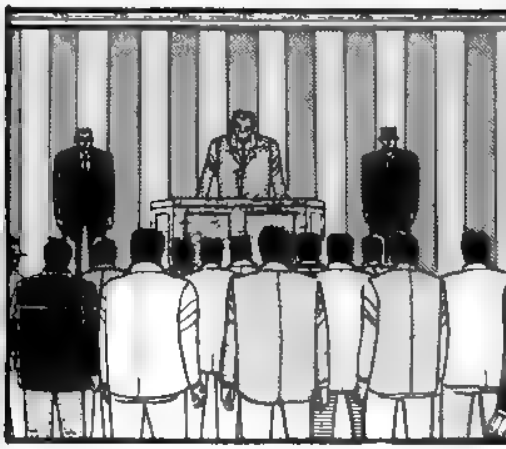
What do I mean ...?
What do you mean, real human connections ...?
Huh ...?
What was that supposed to mean ...?
...betrayal, and being betrayed...
...getting past all this...
Getting past this game... and... and...
Working together ...
Are you for real ...?
: Hehehe
: Bwahahaha
It's about trust... Forging bonds between people...

You're as good as dead...
Ahh ...
Hehehe ...
The only thing that can save you in here is profit.
What ...!?
...you either need to go down like me, holding onto some cash...
...if you want to get out of this mess we're in...
Which means ...
...so that no one knows the whereabouts but you.
...or you need to hide some big treasure back on land...
: Hehehe

You come down here talking nonsense about bonds...
...and trust...
But you ...
.....
You've got to give them no choice but to save you.
Shut up ...! Shut up ...!
Shut up...!
You're in for a rude awakening, kid...
Now then...
Me and Ando and Furuhata ...
We've been through a lot so far...
What do you know ...!
...it's about time the auction began.

Ahh ...!


The auction will last for 10 minutes ...



I have a question ...!
...then you will be sent to the other room.

... during the auction ...
If you still don't manage to get three stars this time...

I want to... um...give three stars to someone in the other room...
.....

Just one...

Is that...
...so that they can come back...
Is that allowed ...?

BOW
Be my guest...

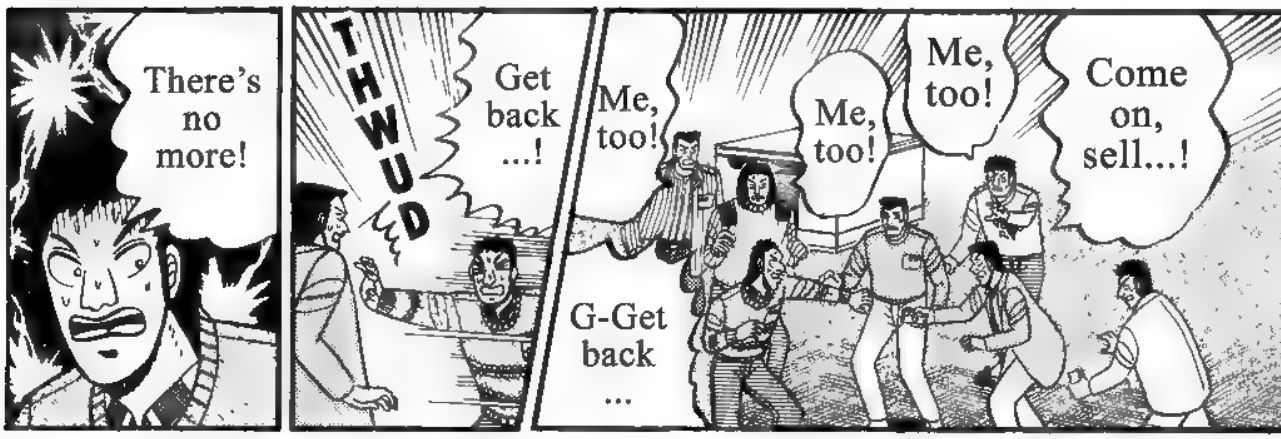
Furuhata ...
ざわ..
ざわ

Huh? Hear that...? See that ...?
See that...? Hear that ...?
What did I say...!?
Not for a second ...!
Those two didn't even think about betraying me...
Hehehe
Guess I proved you wrong ...!
Not everyone in the world is warped and twisted like you...!
... it's still too early to tell
Huh ...?
But ...
That was certainly an unexpected development ...
Hehe ...
I see ...

Starting now, the auction will last ...
... for the next ten minutes.
We begin ...
Are you still saying that...
Shh ...!
Go ...!
Sell ...!
Sell ...!
Sell to me ...!
Sell ...!
Sell it to me ...!
Sell ...!
Sell!
WAHH

Sell...!
Sell me those stars...!
AHHHH
AHHHHHH...
Oww ...
WAH
We can still save Kaiji-san...
Even if we sell one there are three left over.
WAH
I'm gonna sell one ...!
W- Wait ...
WAHH
5 mil. yen... 5 mil. yen...!
Sell ...!
Sell to me ...!
J-Just hold on a sec ...
Who said 5 mil. yen...?
Here ...!
Owweee
Ouch ...!
WAH
Ando ...
Ahh ...
WAH
Ow ...!
Sell ...!
THUMP

I got it ...! I got it ...!
Ouch ...
Waahahaha ...!
THUD


There's no more!
THWUD
Get back ...!
Me, too!
Me, too!
Me, too!
Come on, sell...!
G-Get back ...

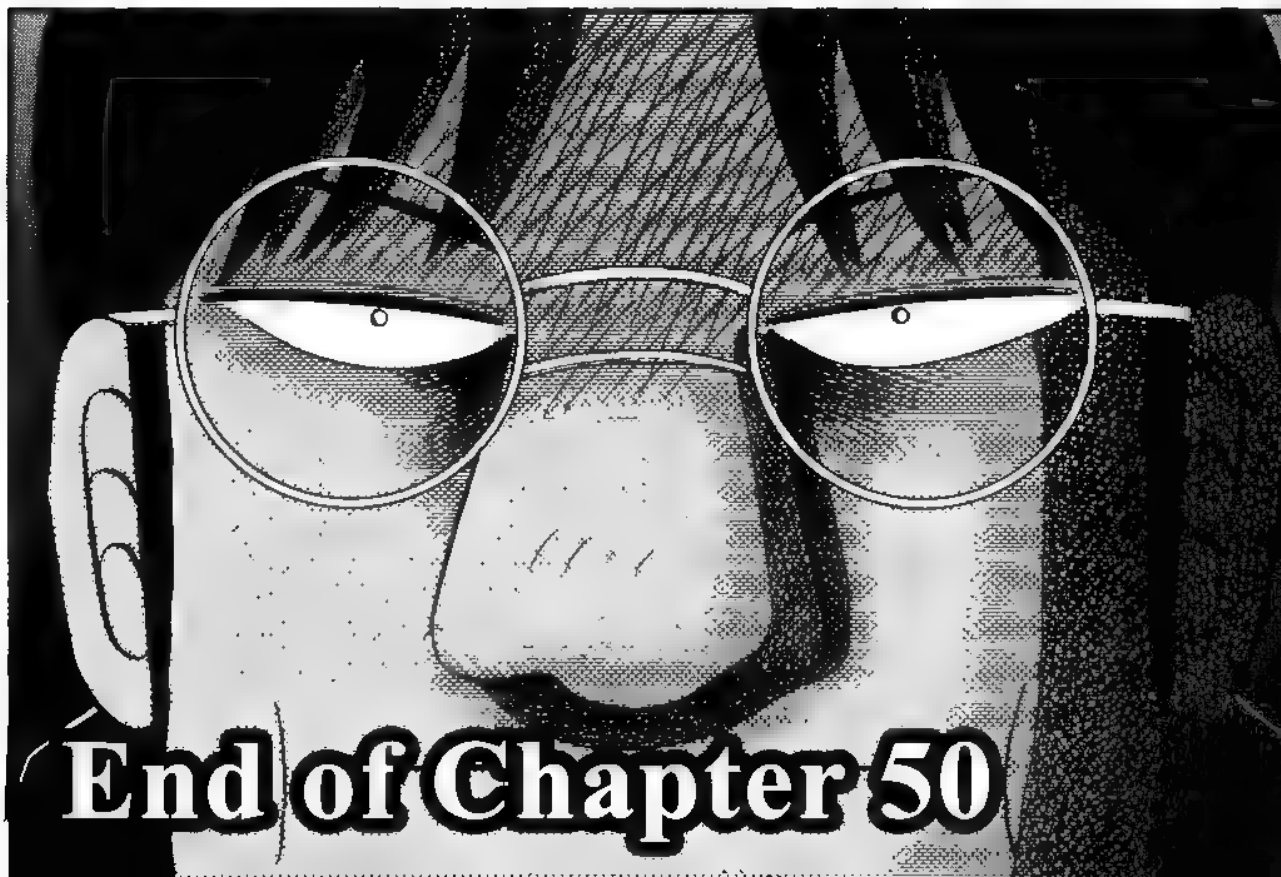
.....
I said back off ...!
.....
Unbelievable ...
Ooo
We don't have any more extra stars left ...
No one else can have them ...!
So back off ...!
... are to save our friend in the other room.
The three stars left ...

Phew
...

There's someone in there I want to save.
Excuse me ...
.....
This way.
.....
Furuhata...
Ngh ...
This one ...

We're out of sta ...
I told you already ...!
SHOVE
Hrrk ...!
Nmmphh ...

Huh ...?


End of Chapter 50

Chapter 51: Corrosion

ざわ‥ ざわ‥
……?
If we sell even one of them …
We've only got three stars left over...that's just enough to save Kaiji-san.
You can't do that …!
What are you saying …!?
Ahh …
Huh …?
I don't care.
… we won't be able to save Kaiji-san... after all he's done for us …!
……
Forget it …
……
Wha …
I won't give them up... I don't want to...
… are mine.
The stars and the money …
Ando …
What are you doing …?

Ando
...
ぎゅ

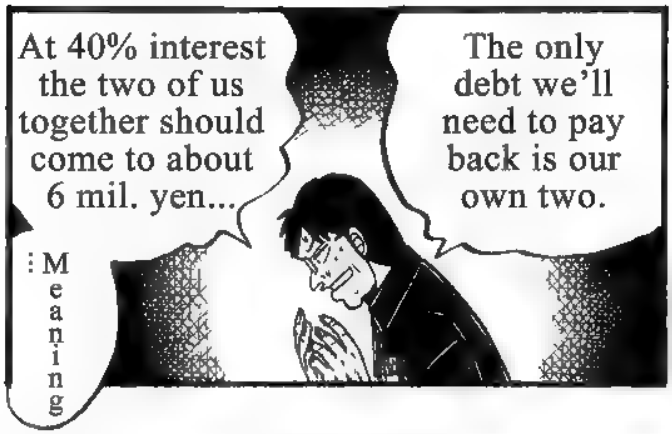
ざわ…
ざわ…
What …
ざわ…
Yeah, Ando, come on …!
Have you gone crazy, Ando!?
What are you saying!?

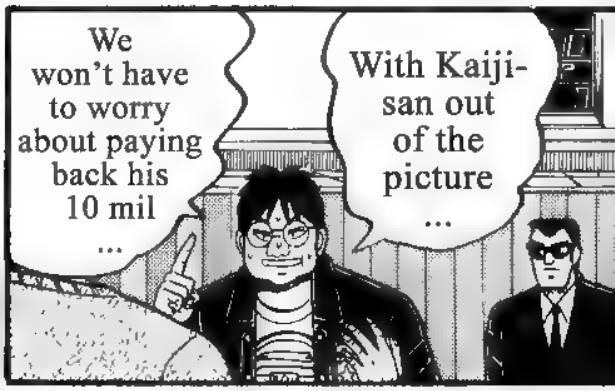
Think about it rationally.
Huh ...?
Saving Kaiji-san would be too much. We'll be reduced to poverty.
Furuhata-san:
This is too much ...
That still leaves us way in the hole.
... plus 5 from the star we sold.
That's a total of 11 mil. yen.
... with our original 6 mil. yen ...
... then the three of us will be left ...
If we save Kaiji-san ...
...but on top of the 14 mil. there's another 40% in interest. Fourteen times 1.4 equals...19.6 ...
14 mil. would put us in the hole, as it is ...
The two of us borrowed 2 mil. each ...
Have you forgotten about the money we had to borrow when the game started?
Don't you see ...?
That's how much money we're gonna have to pay back to the ship.
... almost 20 mil. yen!
... and Kaiji-san borrowed 10 mil. That's 14 mil. yen.

Ahh ...!
... then how are we supposed to start over!?
If we leave the ship with that much debt ...
That's 3 mil. in debt, each.
We'll still be 9 mil. in the hole ...!
The 11 mil. we've got now will barely touch that.
See ...!
A few ...
Well ...
Furuhata-san...I bet you have other debts waiting for you...
.....
But ...
...that doesn't mean we're saved.
Even if we do get off the boat ...
We have to betray him.
We've got no choice ...!
... then there'll be money and stars enough for the both of us.
...if we're willing to be strong now and turn our backs on Kaiji-san...

Go ahead, add it up ...
We can still earn another 15 mil. yen...!
It was 5 mil. yen ...!
How much did we just sell that star for...?

.....
That's 26 mil. yen.
26 mil. yen ...!
The 6 mil. yen we already had, plus the 5 mil. we just sold, and another 15 mil. yen hereafter.


At 40% interest the two of us together should come to about 6 mil. yen...
Meaning
The only debt we'll need to pay back is our own two.


We won't have to worry about paying back his 10 mil ...
With Kaiji-san out of the picture ...

If we betray Kaiji-san we'll have 10 mil. yen in our hands ...
Do you see ...?

That's 10 mil. yen each ...
26 minus 6...comes to 20 mil. yen...

... when we get off this boat!
Ahh ...
With that much money paying off your other trifling debts should be no big deal... Right...?

Furuhata...!
B-But ...
Don't let it bother you ...
Furuhata ...!
Ahh ...
Instead of doing that ...
Besides, handing over three stars to just one person is practically a crime in itself.
... sometimes even killing is called for.
In desperate times ...
That's five people saved.
However...!
Plus... we'll be saving ourselves as well ...
... and that way, we save them all.
... we can give one star each to three people ...
We have to do the right thing ...!
These are desperate times!
... then Kaiji-san is the only one saved!
Can we let ourselves do that...!?
If we give the stars to Kaiji-san...

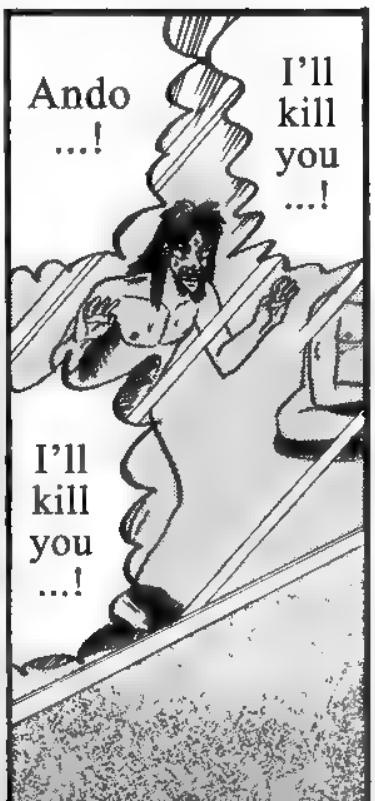
You rat... How could you ...?
Ando ...!
THUMP
Can't you see? The choice is obvious ...
Is it better to save five people or only one ...?
Try and look at the big picture.

You dirty, manipulative snake ...!
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
You won't get away with this ...!

Betray me and I'll kill you too ...!
.....

Hmph ....
Ahh ...

I'm gonna kill you ...!
Furuhata ...!


Ando ...!
I'll kill you ...!
I'll kill you ...!

...
we'll never have to see him again.
.....
In other words ...
He's stuck in there for the rest of his life.
There's no reason to be afraid.

He'll forget our faces before he even knows it ...
Most of them are as good as dead before the first year is out ...
...then those guys in the other room have nothing but hell to look forward to.
If what I hear is true ...

You rat ...!
You rat ...!
Hmph ...
... filthy ...
... rat!
You nasty ...

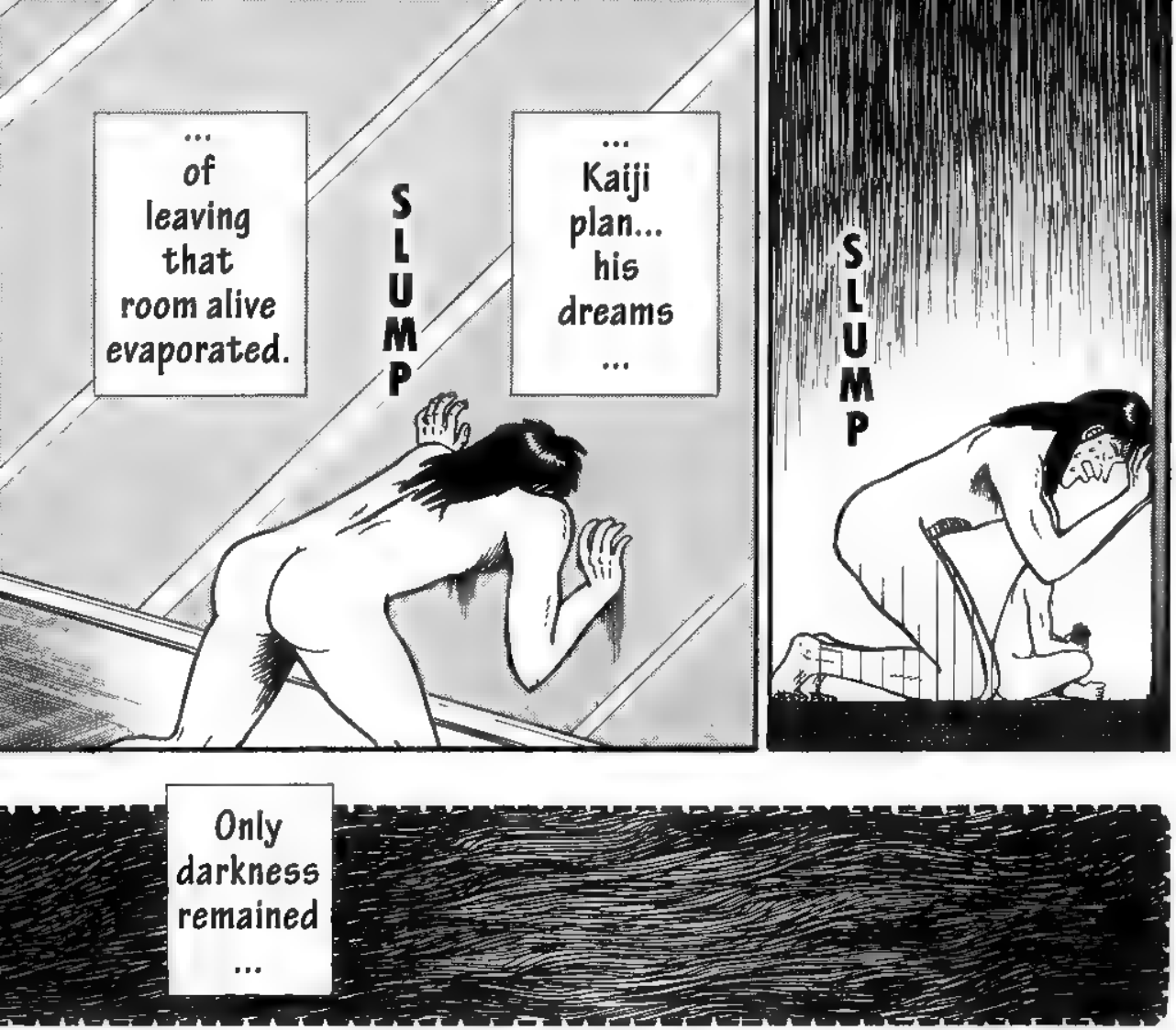
Knock him out and save me ...!
Punch him in the face ...!
Furuhata ...!
I'll kill you with my bare hands!
THUMP
THUMP
Furuhata ...!
Save me ...!
Forgive me ...
Kaiji-san ...

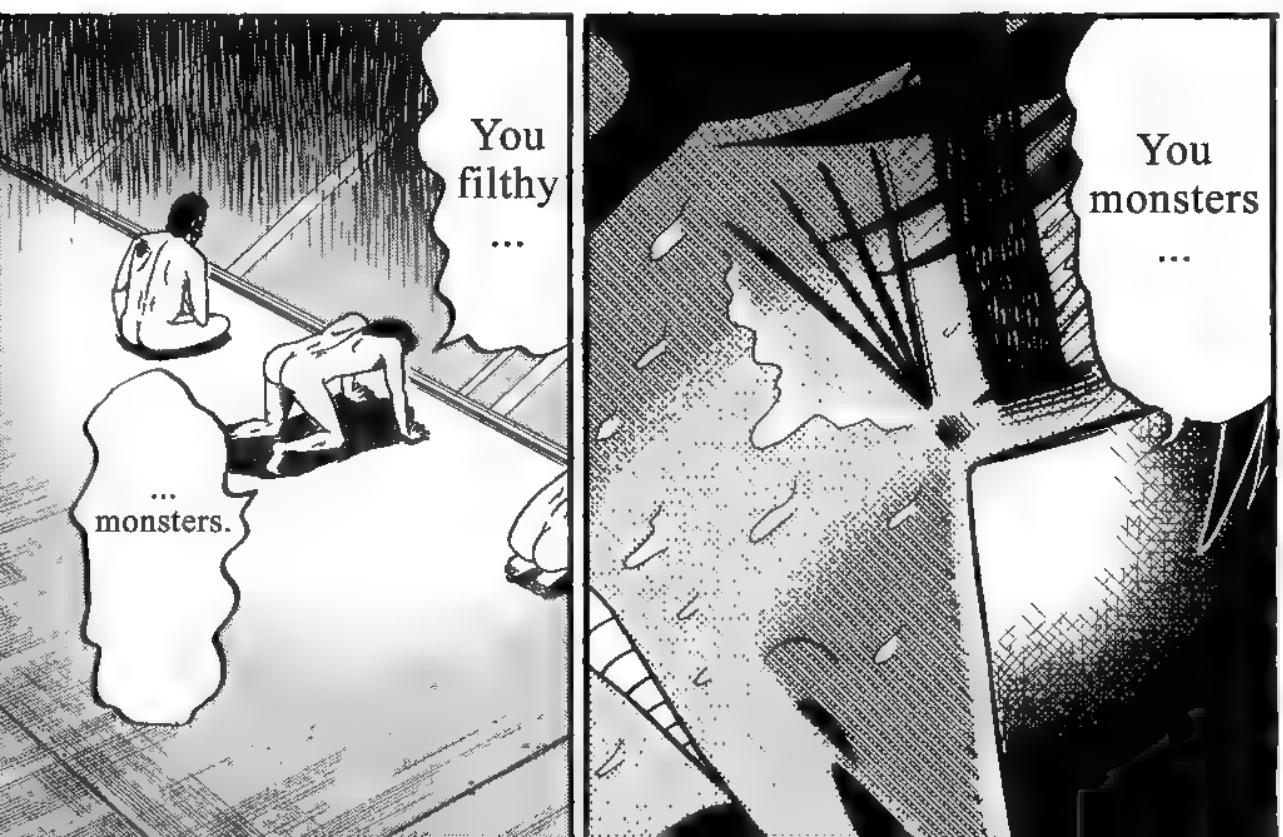
Don't start apologizing ...!
Furuhata ...
Whaddya mean, forgive me...!?
NOD
.....
Okay ...?
Don't do it, Furuhata ...!
Don't apologize ...!

Bidding starts at 5 mil. yen...!
Star for sale ...!
Stop it ...!
WAH
Stop ...!

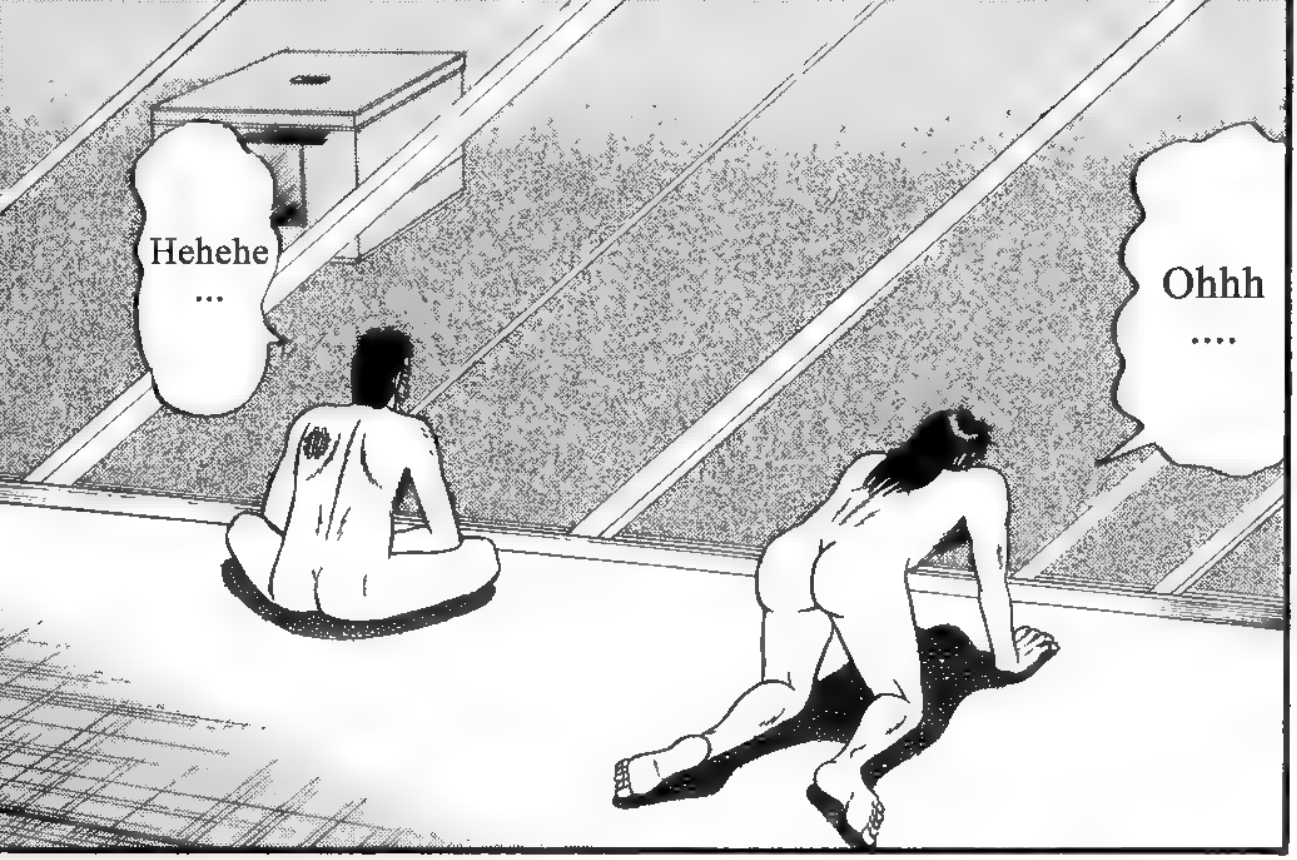
They sold it ...!

At that precise moment ...
THUNK

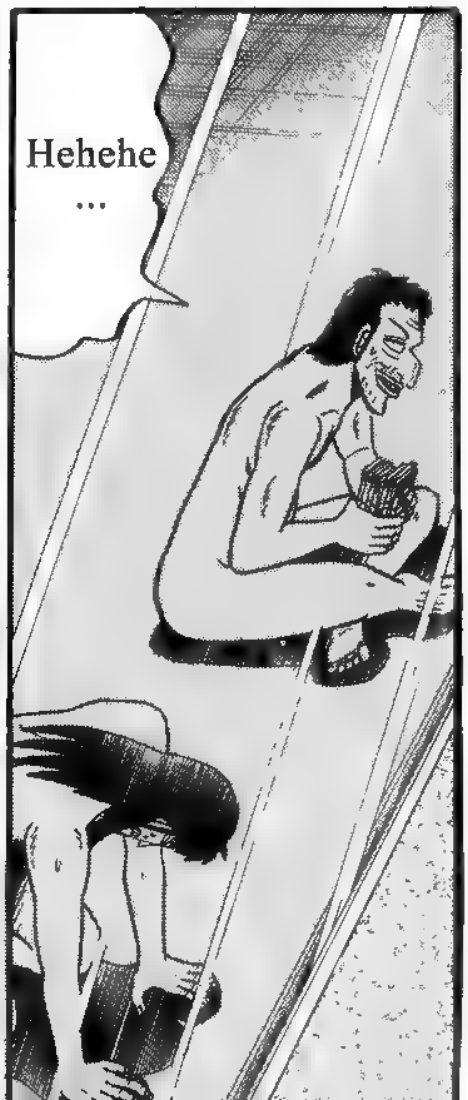

...
of leaving that room alive evaporated.
SLUMP
...
Kaiji plan... his dreams ...
SLUMP
Only darkness remained ...


You filthy ...
... monsters.
You monsters ...

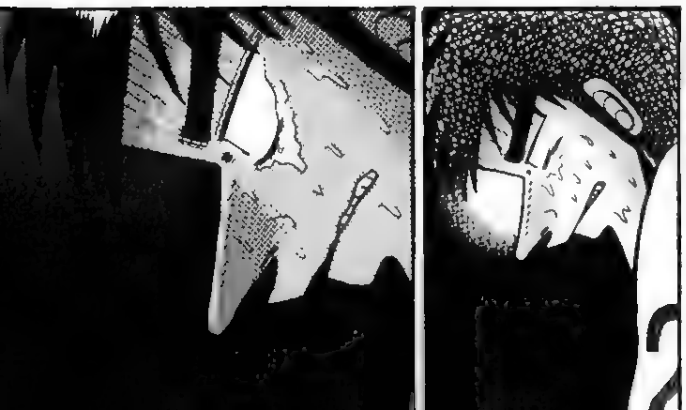
How can you call yourselves human ...!?
End of Chapter 51

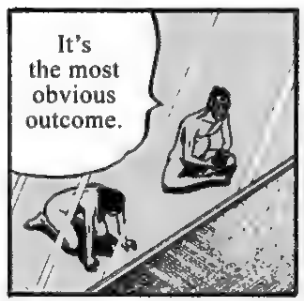

Hehehe
...
Ohhh
....

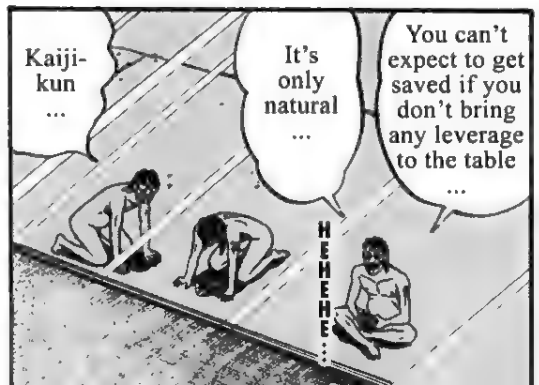
Hehe
...
Hehehe
...

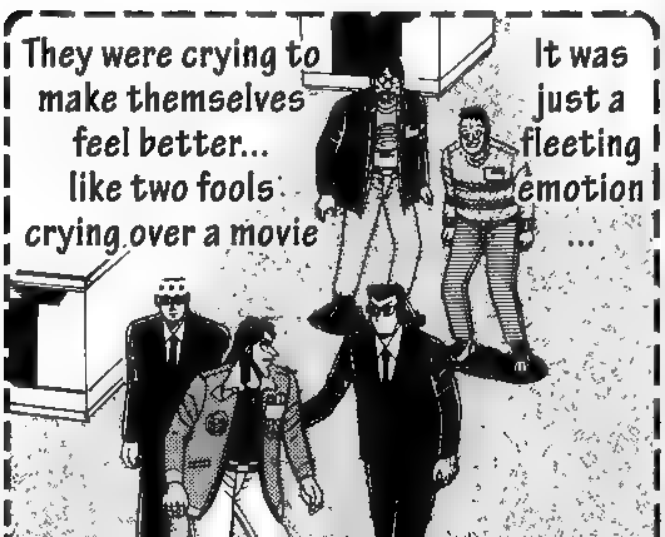

Hehehe
...

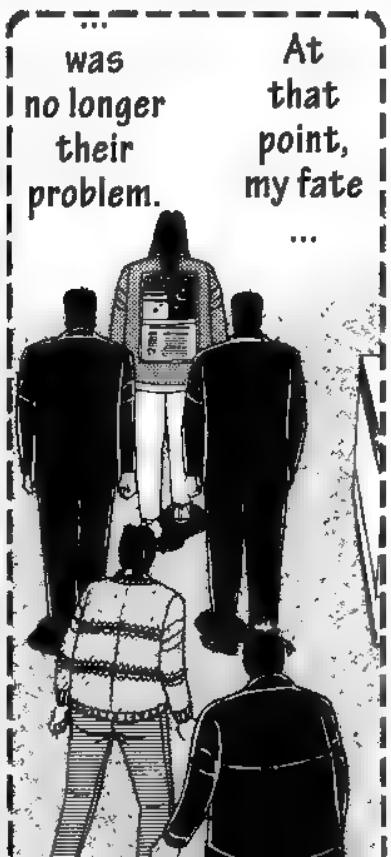
Chapter 52: Scorn







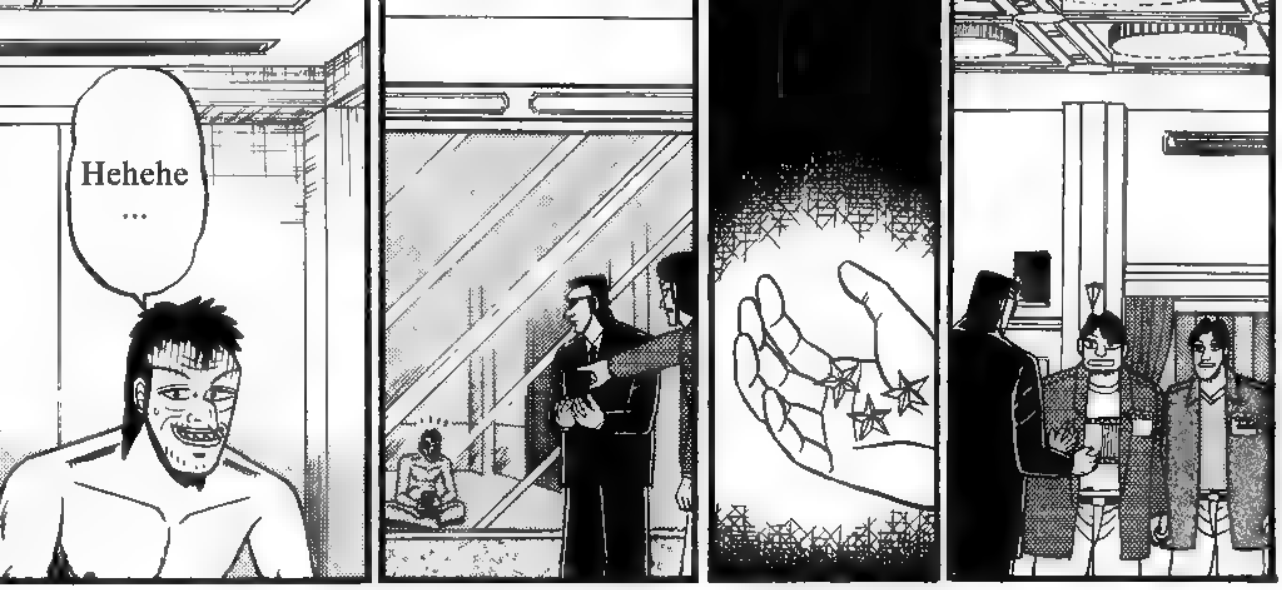




No wonder their voices sounded so far away ...

...they were already turning their heartless backs on me.
Deep down in their guts ...
They were empty tears ...!
... but he was no better.
On Furuhata's part maybe it had been subconscious ...
There's no doubt Ando was already shirking out...
SEOUL
... wasn't because I was half dead with shock...
That distance ...
... they seemed so far away ...
That's why ...
... no warmth in their voices!
... no real intention to save me...
There was no sincerity ...

It's too late now ...
Ngh ...
Hehehe
It took you too long to figure out the truth.
Kaiji ...
Friendship and spoken promises ...
... are like souvenirs or postcards.
They're not worth anything ...
The really important stuff can't be bartered for ...
... with friendship ...
Just more of the same ...
The kind of junk we keep for mementos.
If you're going to get the things and the status you want ...
... out of this world ...
Profit is the only thing that's real ...!
In the end ...
... the only way is money!

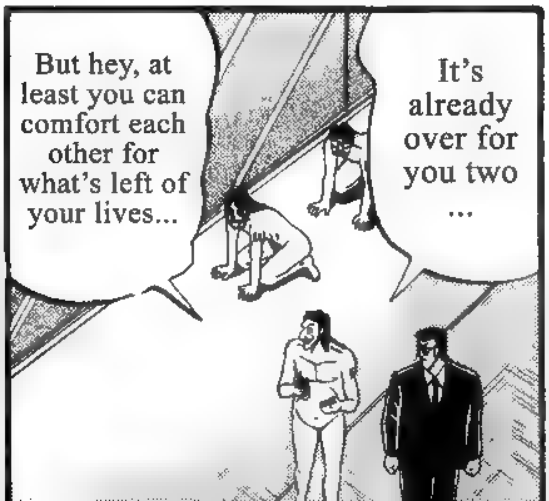

Hehehe
...

...in the end, you two were just being gullible
...
So you see
...

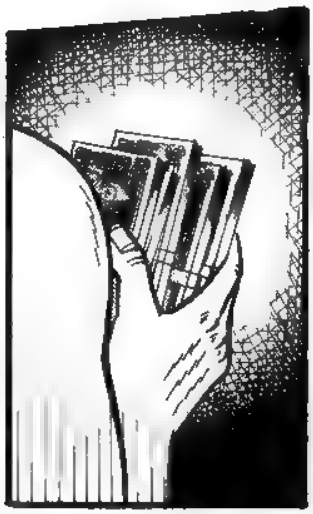
...
and my reward is survival.
I was honest with myself
...

But me
...
...sugar-coating the obvious
...

.....
Hehehehehe
...
The last year or two
...


But hey, at least you can comfort each other for what's left of your lives...
It's already over for you two
...

Money ...!

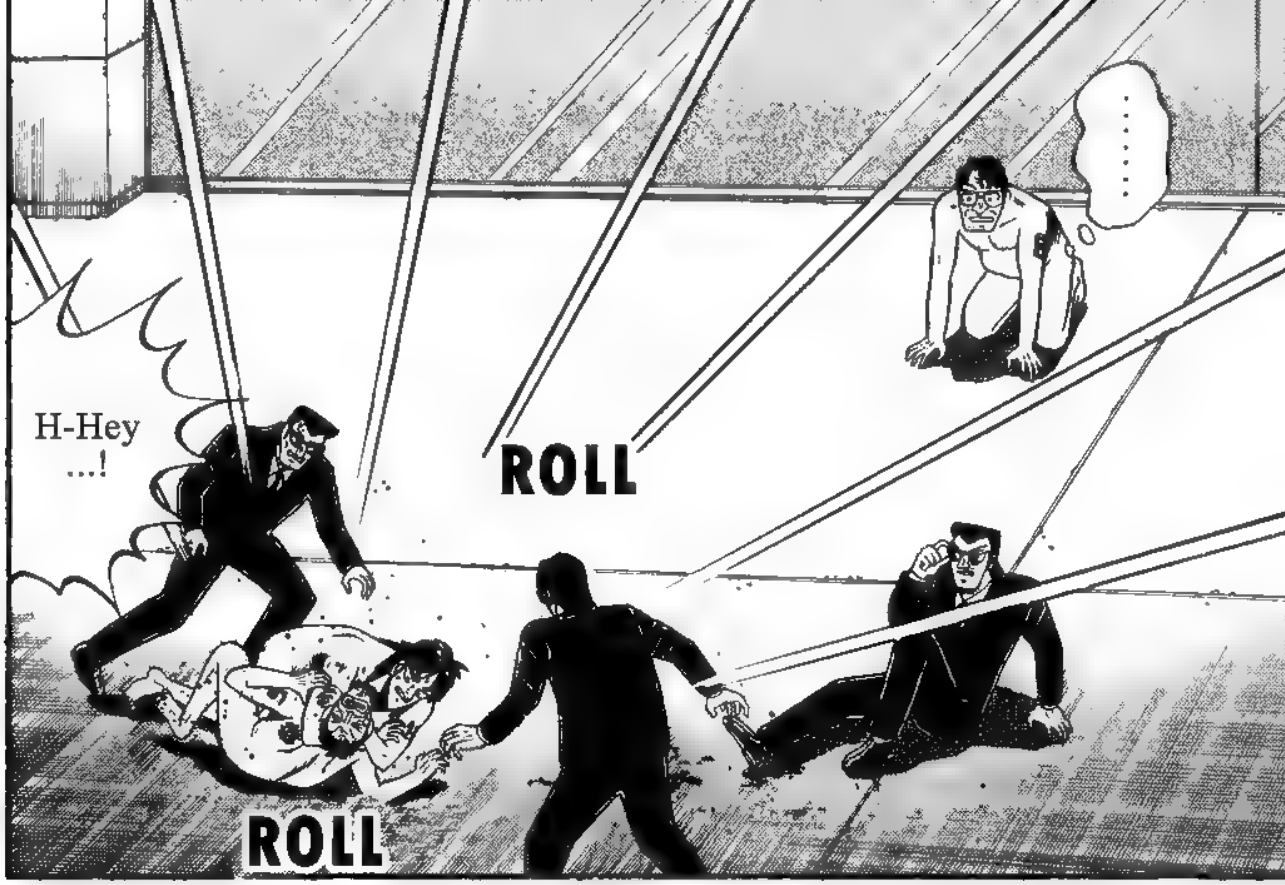


Profit ...!

Ahh ...!
21
At that moment ...
... Kaiji had a realization.
Ahh ...
Huh ...?
WOBBLE
.....
Kaiji-kun ...?

SLAM
POW
Wha ...
Urghk ...!
THUD

THUD
SQUEEZE
CRACK
GRAB
Ngh ...!
21
SMASH
You punk ...!
You ...
POW
POW
POW
Knock it off ...!
CHOKE
Nrrkk ...!

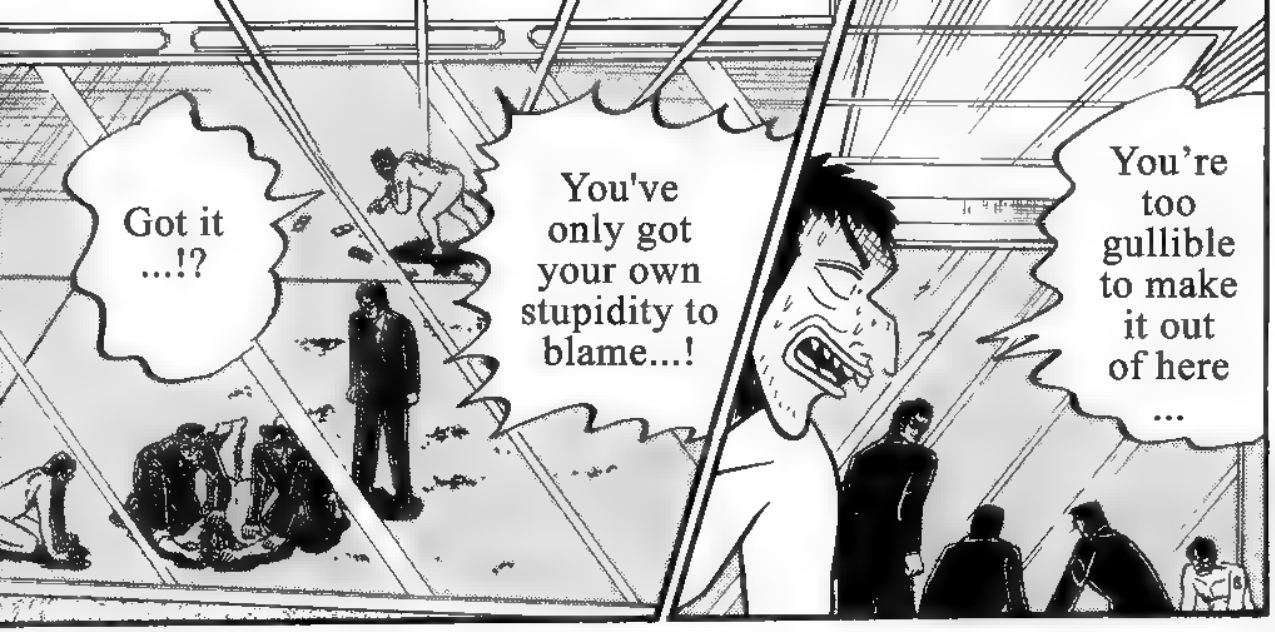

H-Hey ...!
ROLL
ROLL
.....

Let him go ...!
You're killing him ...!
Let go ...!

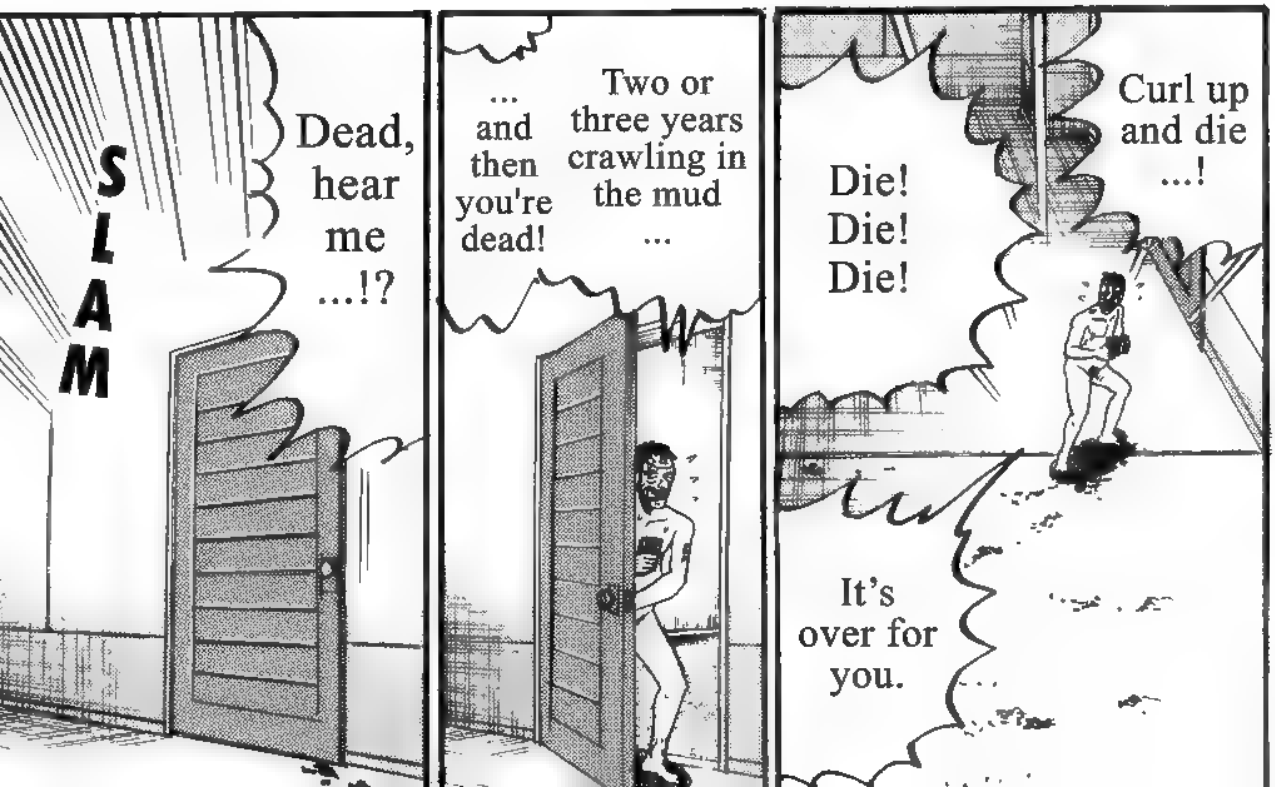
Hyah ...!
POW
You twerp ...!
COUGH
COUGH
What did I tell you ...!?

COUGH
.....
Think you can pull that in here ...!?
Little twerp ...!
SMACK
STOMP
STOMP
COUGH
COUGH
You twerp ...!
SMASH
CHOMP
THUD

Get off ...!
Ahhh ...!
Arrghh ...!
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
Get off ...!
CRACK
Ahh ...
Take your money ...
Get out of here already!
THUD
What did we say, scum ...!?
STOMP
SMASH
You too ...!
Ahh ...!
You're pathetic ...!
That little twerp ...
That twerp ...

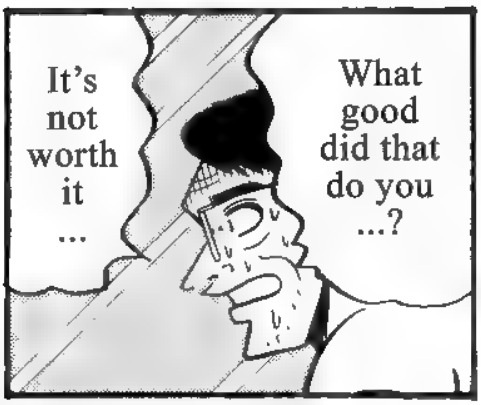

Got it ...!?
You've only got your own stupidity to blame...!
You're too gullible to make it out of here ...

.....
Piece of trash ...!
That's why you're taking swings at me...!
You're jealous!

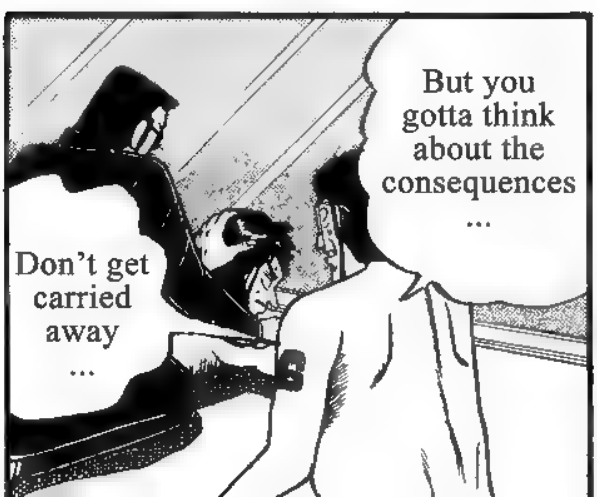

SLAM
Dead, hear me ...!?
... and then you're dead!
Two or three years crawling in the mud ...
Die! Die! Die!
Curl up and die ...!
It's over for you.

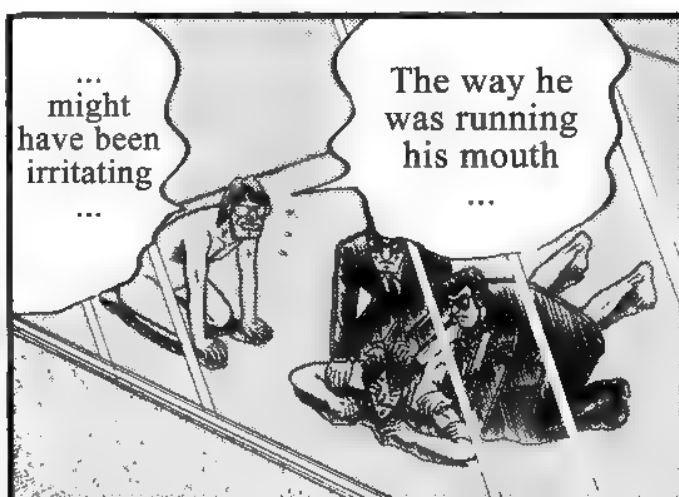
Hehehe
...

Kaiji-
kun
...


It's
not
worth
it
...
What
good
did that
do you
...?

What's
gotten
into
you
...?
What
happened
...?


Don't get
carried
away
...
But you
gotta think
about the
consequences
...

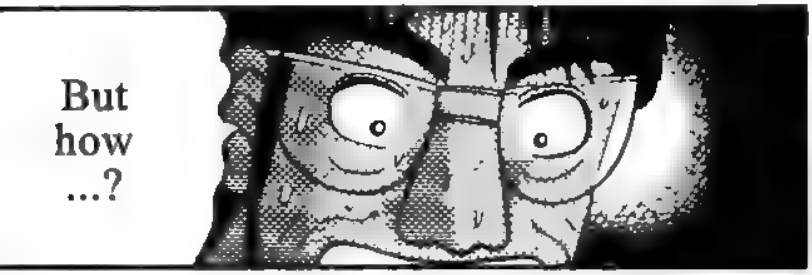

...
might
have been
irritating
...
The way he
was running
his mouth
...

You don't wanna make them single you out.
You've gotta stay on their good side...
No matter what hell is waiting, they'll still go easier on you if you behave...
You can't let yourself get carried away ...
Hitting the guys in the black suits was a step too far.
Hehehe ...
Starting fights won't help anybody ...
We've gotta be good while we're in here...
... to find your way ...
Sometimes you've gotta kick and scream...
Huh ...?
Don't be so sure ...
.....
To make it out ... alive ...
Your way out ...
Your comeback!

Huh ...?
... outta here!
There's still a way...
.....

What ...!?
End of Chapter 52

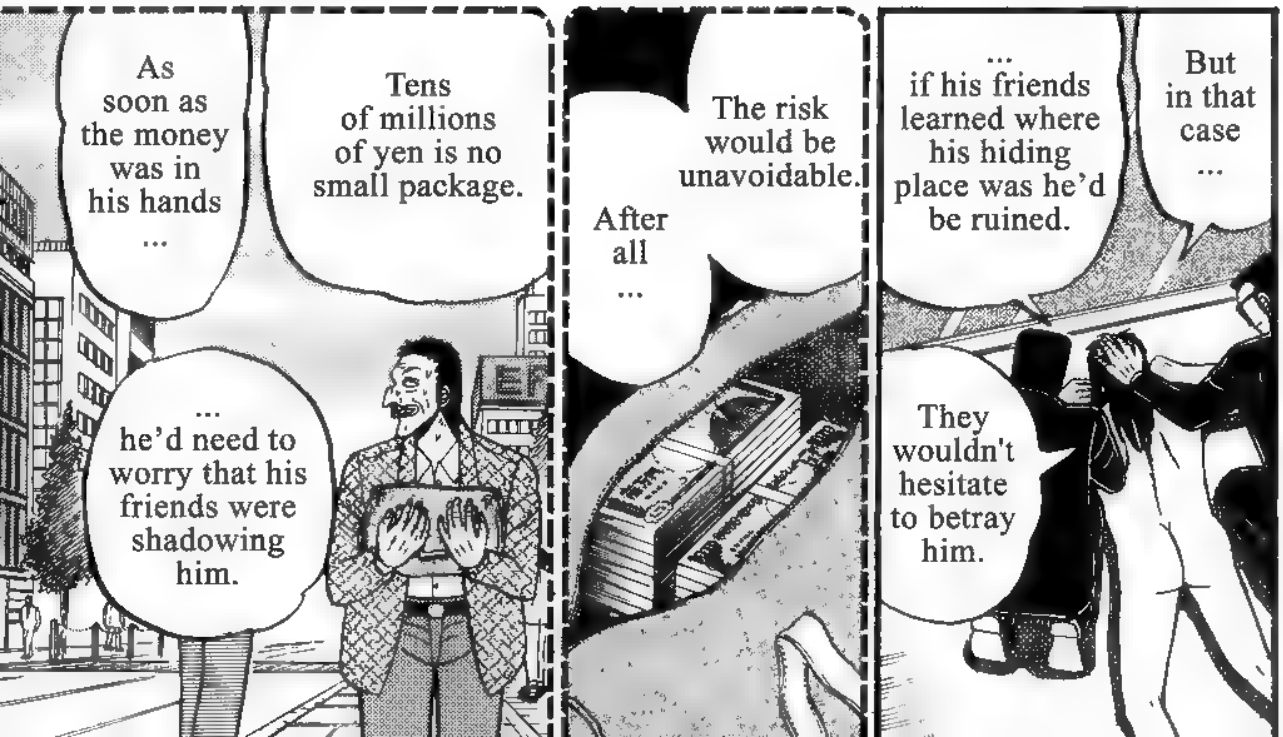
Chapter 53: Revival



.....
It was so clear to everyone but us...
I told you, don't be so sure about that ...
I've figured out...
... a way to survive.
... so that it's in the best interests of the guys out there to get us out.
We have to make it ...
If we want to be saved we have to make it so abandoning us is to their detriment...
... but what Okabayashi said was true...
... it isn't enough... not even close ...
Huh ...?
But obviously ...
That's why Okabayashi was holding onto his money...all that precious money ...
It was his ransom, to guarantee that his friends kept to their bargain ...

You'd need at least 15 mil. to guarantee getting out of here.
Which means ...
... to buy all three of his stars.
One star is going for 4 or 5 mil. yen right now.
At most he has 7 or 8 mil. yen ...
That isn't enough ...
Listen ...

... and he's the only one who knows where it is.
That's gotta be it ...
Somewhere on land he could be hiding a huge sum of money...
It must be that treasure he mentioned, just now ...
... he must have other insurance.


As soon as the money was in his hands ...
Tens of millions of yen is no small package.
... he'd need to worry that his friends were shadowing him.
After all ...
The risk would be unavoidable.
... if his friends learned where his hiding place was he'd be ruined.
But in that case ...
They wouldn't hesitate to betray him.

Which means ...
... when all is said and done ...
.....
In the end it would be almost impossible to guarantee a 100% safe hiding place ...
In other words ...
?
... would be to bring that treasure onboard.
... the safest way ...
.....
... that he could take with him into this room.
... and convert them into jewels and precious metals ...
Take those tens of millions of yen ...
Ahh ...
That would be the safest way.

Ishida-san ...
We're naked as jaybirds ...
Look at us ...
But ...
Huh ...?
Do you remember this ...?

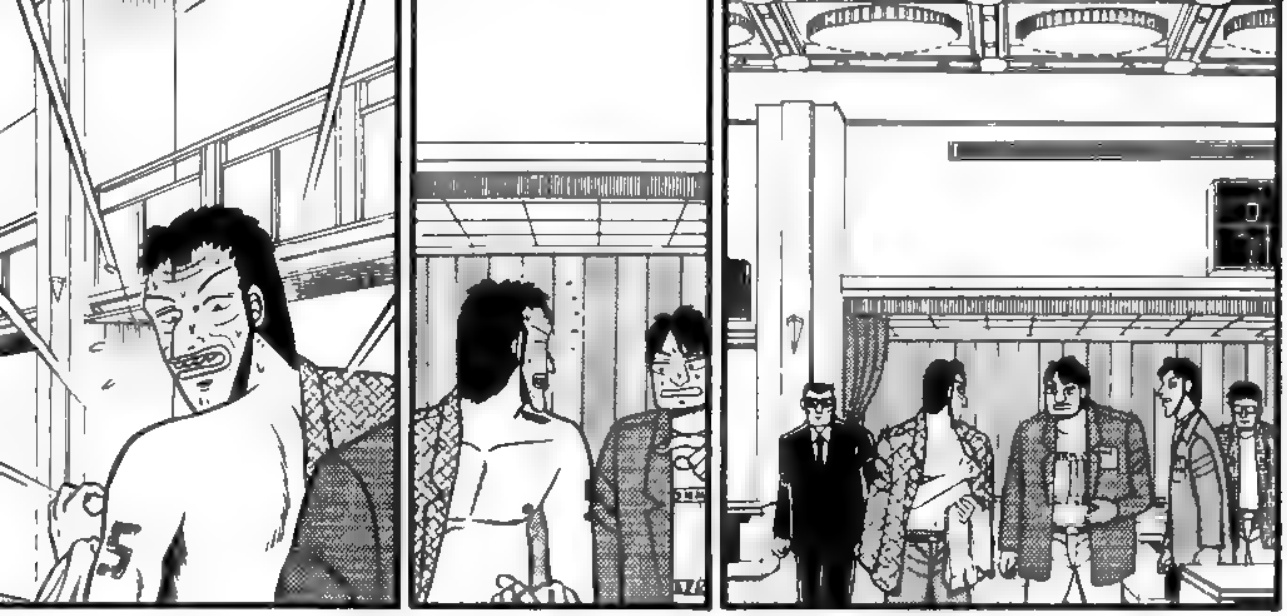
Wah ...!

Then ...

The bandage Okabayashi had on his shoulder.

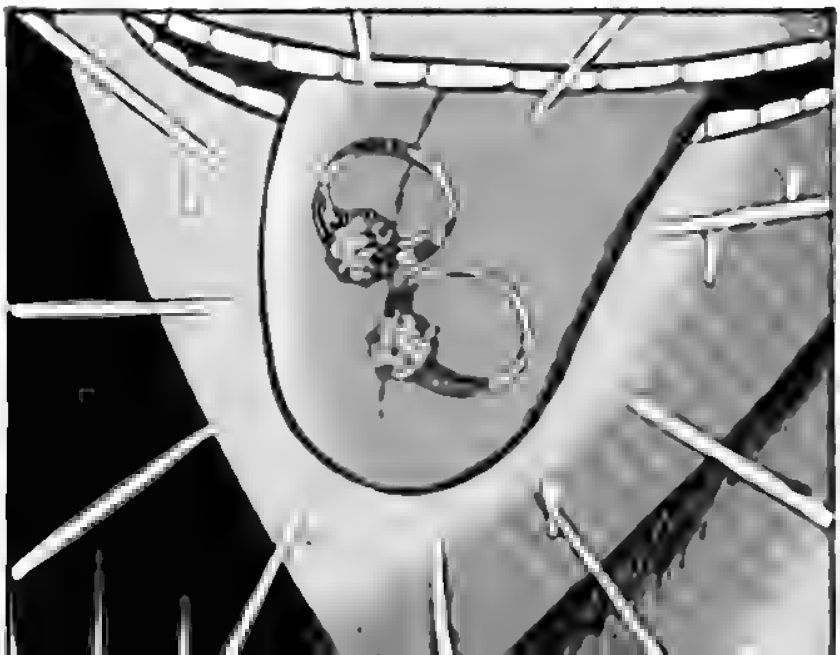
That's right
Th- That's...

Does that mean ...?
Hmph



Looks like you're the one who was caught with his pants down...
Okabayashi ...
That`s right ...
Finally caught on did you, you dumb mule?
: Hehehe

Who's gullible now ...?



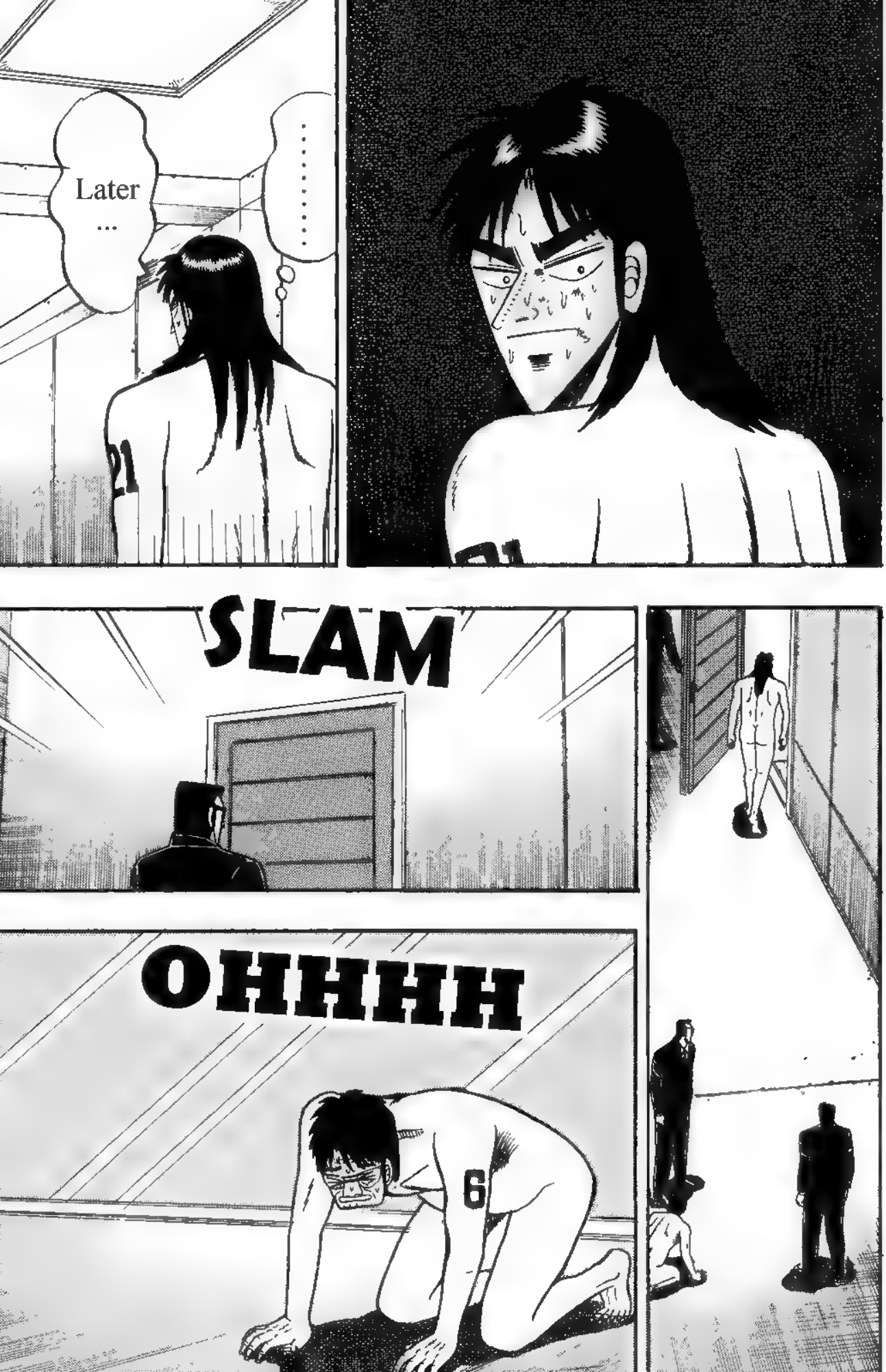
You fool ...!

Ahh ...!
Ahhhhh ...!

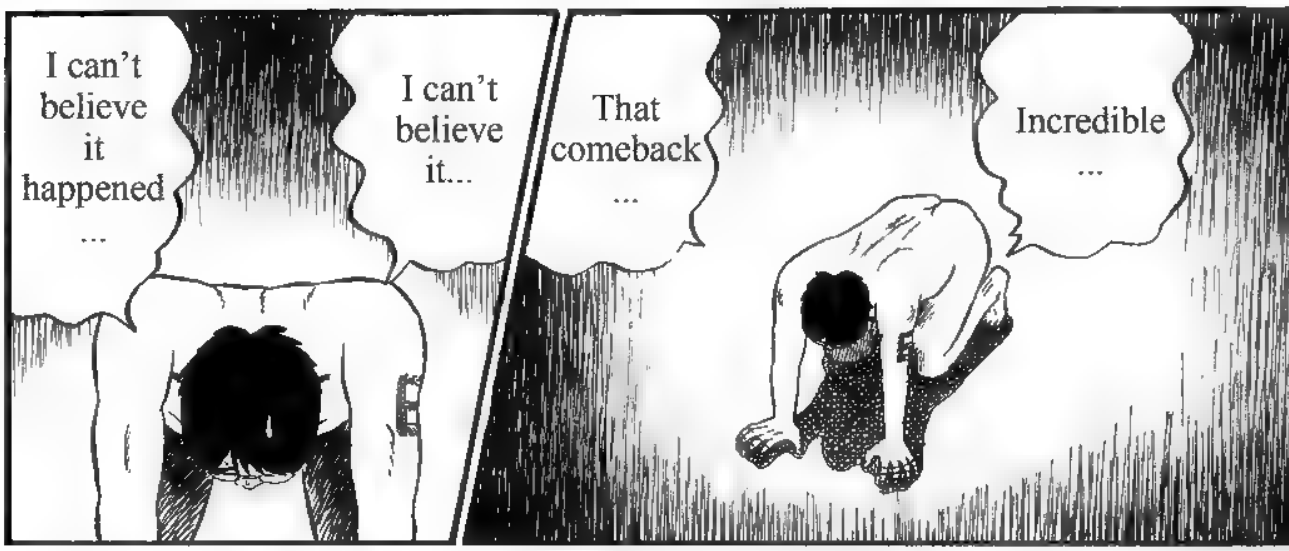
POW
You moron ...!
What do you mean ...?
What's the meaning of this ...?
What is this ...?
K-Kaiji-kun ...
Hehehe ...
CRASH
THONK
Piece of trash ...!
Scum!
Useless!
STOMP
Ahhh ...!
STOMP
If this treasure is really worth more than 15 mil. yen...
...then you'd better save me!
Now save me...!

Ahh
...
...you jerks!
Hurry up...
In the end
...
.....
.....
Ah
...
Three minutes left...!
They were forced to save him.
...were worth 20 mil. yen.
The jewels Kaiji had taken during his diversion...
...but to do as Kaiji said.
...
Okabayashi's group had no choice
...
RELEASE

Kaiji -kun ...
See ya...
Kaiji -kun ...
.....
Kaiji -kun ...
SOB
SOB SOB SOB
HUP


Later
...
.....
21
SLAM
OHHHH
6

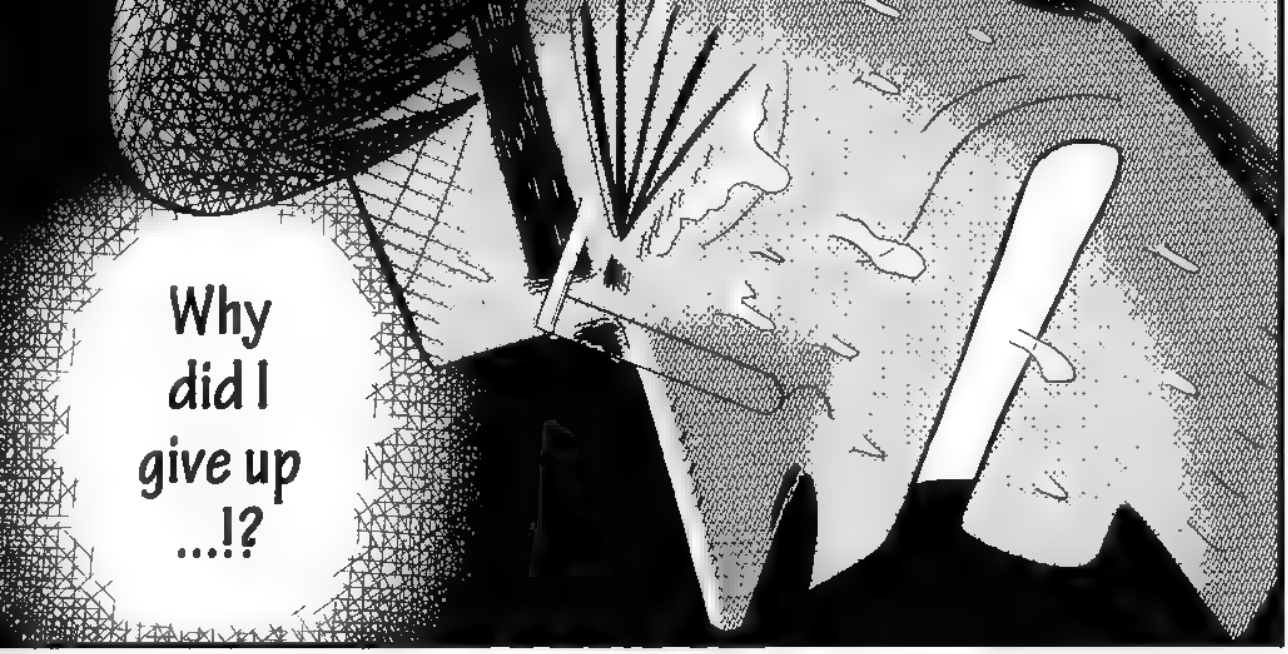
SOB SOB SOB


I can't believe it happened ...
I can't believe it...
That comeback ...
Incredible ...

Why did I give up...!?

SOB SOB SOB

Even in this forsaken pit a comeback like that...
...can still be possible ...

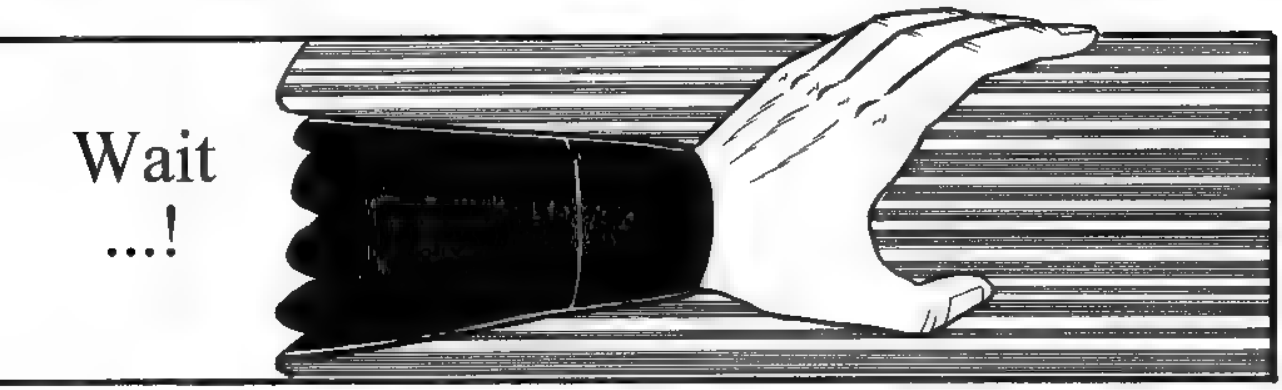

Why did I give up ...!?

If you don't cough it up then I'm not selling ...!
Stop holding out on me...!
I said 7 million ...!
Aren't you listening to me ...!?

Where could he go?
Get real ...
K-Kaiji -san is gone...
Your fates hinge on our decision...!
You heard what I said, 7 mil. yen...
Eeek ...!
He probably can't bear to watch anymore, and he's gone to the back ...
Huh ...?
A-Ando ...

SHIVER
Ahh ...!
But how ...?
N-No way ...!
REOO
You snake ...!
Kaiji ...!
STAGGER
CLINK

K-K-
Kaiji
-san
...
I...
SEOUL
Ahh
...
WAH


Wait
...!

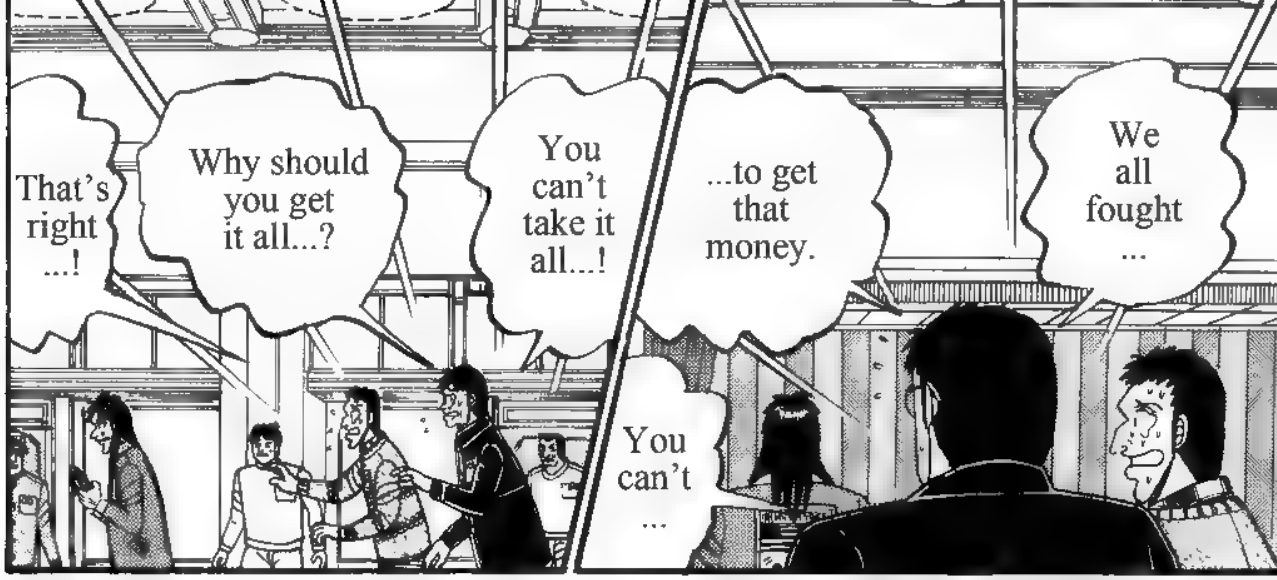
SWOOSH
I don't know what came over me...
Possessed
...
It wasn't me... I was possessed ...!

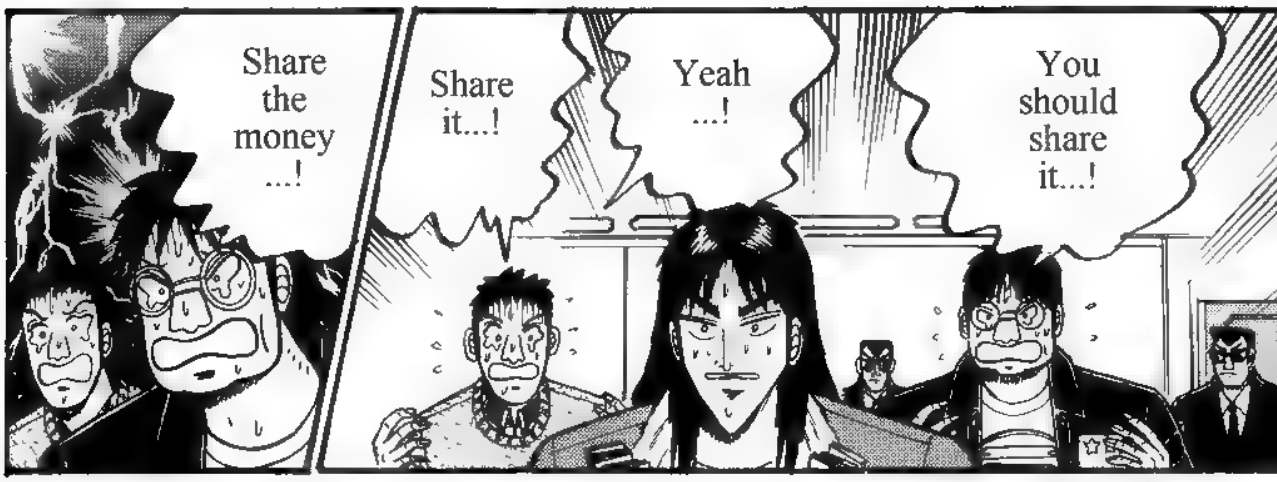
BAM
Hrrkk
...!

CRACK
SMASH
CRACK
Aiiee ...!

SMACK
I was just waiting till the end...
Stop ...!
Quit making excuses ..!
Ahh ...
You've lost that right...!
.....
All your dirty stars and money...
Just shut up and fork it over...!
All of it...!
End of Chapter 53

GRAB
GRAB
Kaiji -san ...
Fork it over ...!
GRAB
All of it ...!
All of it ...?
The money ...!
Forget about what happened ...
You can't ...!
Kaiji -san ...!
GRAB
That's right ...!
Up until then we were all on the same side...!


That's right ...!
Why should you get it all...?
You can't take it all...!
...to get that money.
We all fought ...
You can't ...


Share the money ...!
Share it...!
Yeah ...!
You should share it...!

SOBSOBSOB

Chapter 54: A New Dawn

I'm fed up with this...!
Whaddya mean, throw it away...?
Huh ...?
Maybe I'll just throw the money away...!
You scumbags ...!
Listen to yourselves ...!

Kaiji -san ...!
Why should I get the money, right...!?
You heard me... fed up!
Makes me wanna puke...!
Fed up...

...but once we get on land I can get you another 3 mil.!
I only have 4 mil. now...

To me ...!
Sell to me ...!

I don't have any money myself...
Seriously ...!
Who do you think you're kidding... idiot...

Mine too ...!
7, 8 mil. yen...
My parents will pay too...!
Mine too ...!
My parents will pay you...!
...but my parents will pay!
Forget that ...
My parents can pay...
My parents will...
Mine too ...!
My parents will pay too...!
My parents ...!
I'll buy ...!
You don't need to sell to that trash..!
Shut up ...!

There ...!
8 mil. in cash ...!

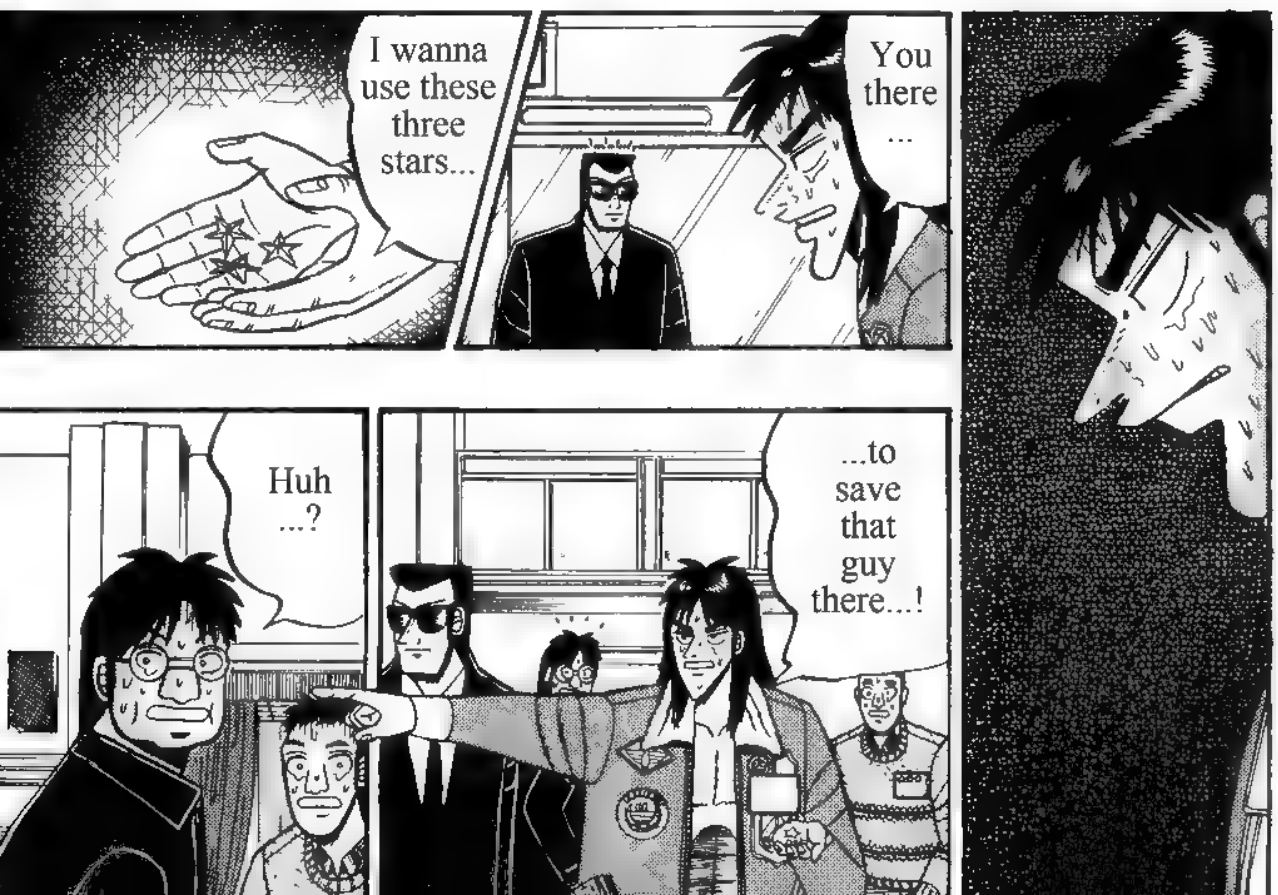
...!
K-Kaiji -san...!
Ahh ...!

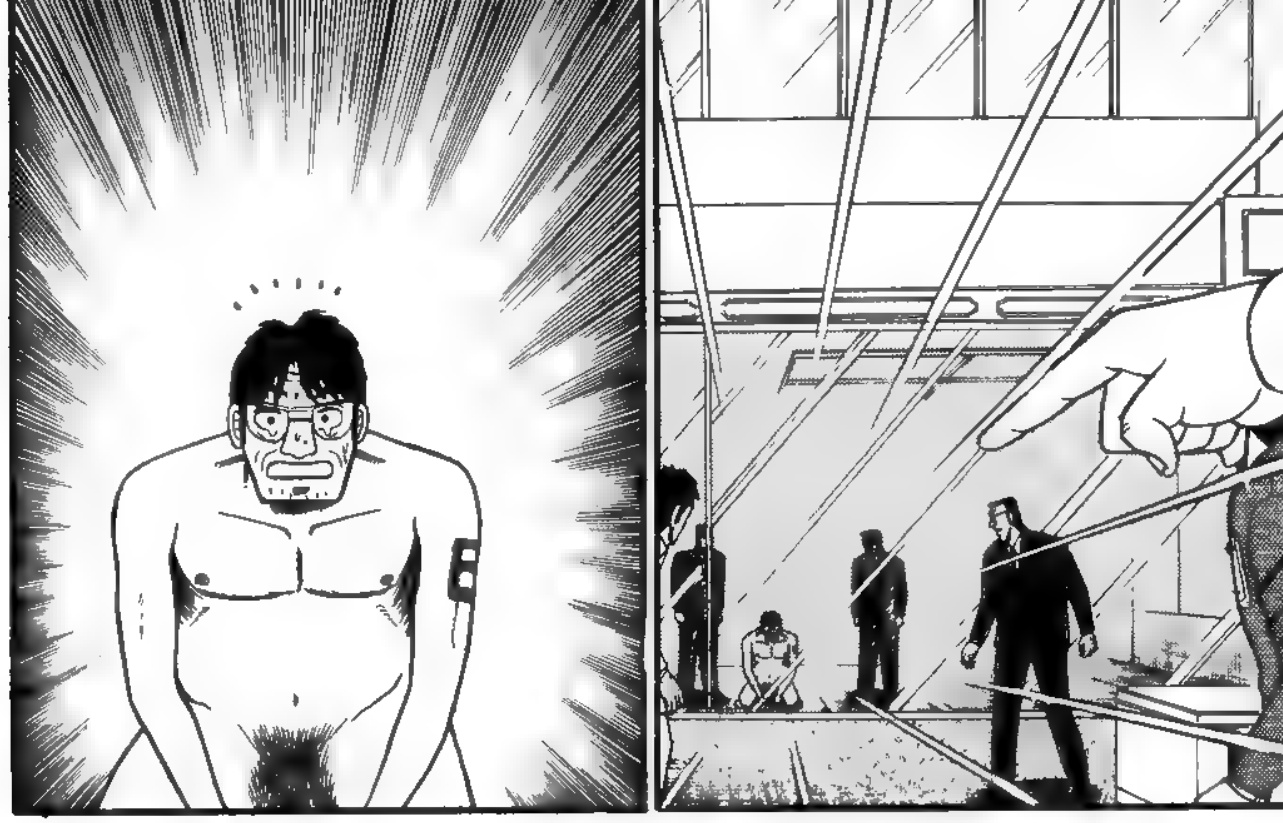
Arrgghhh ...!
Sold ...!

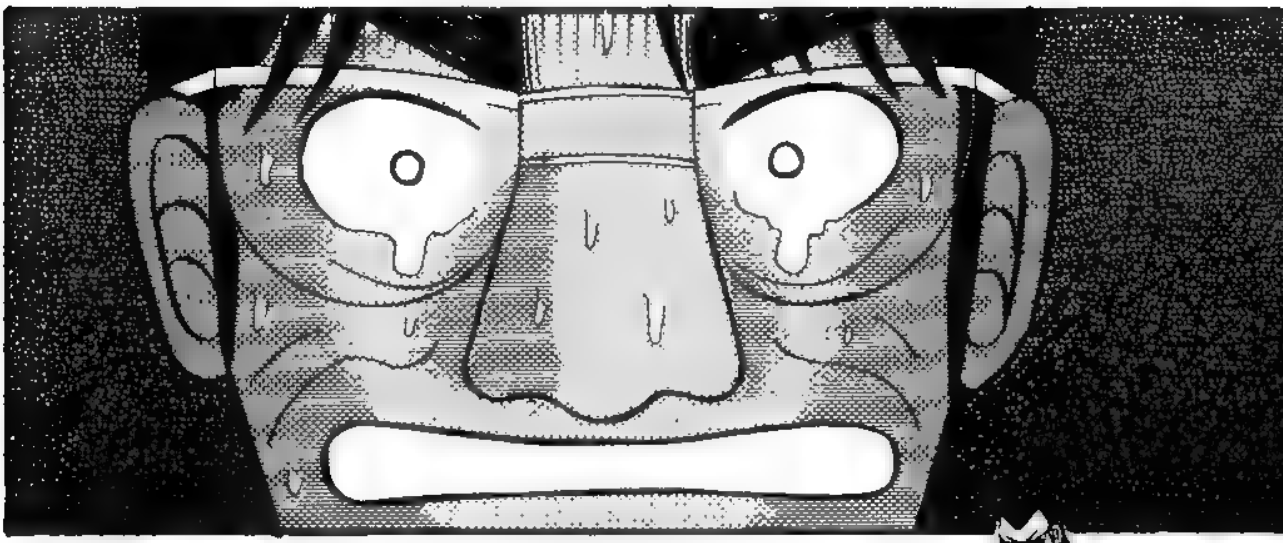
Have you lost it ..!?
You can't start buying stars now...

We don't need to settle for cash on hand.
Hearing people talk about their parents must have given him an idea.
If we pull it off right...
Huh ...?
This must be one of Kaiji-san's plans...
No, wait ...!
This is nonsense ...!

It's probably easier than it looks. That must be what Kaiji-san is thinking...
No, no...
No way, that's impossible ...
H u u h h h ? ⋮
...we can milk their parents later for even more!


I wanna use these three stars...
You there ...
Huh ...?
...to save that guy there...!

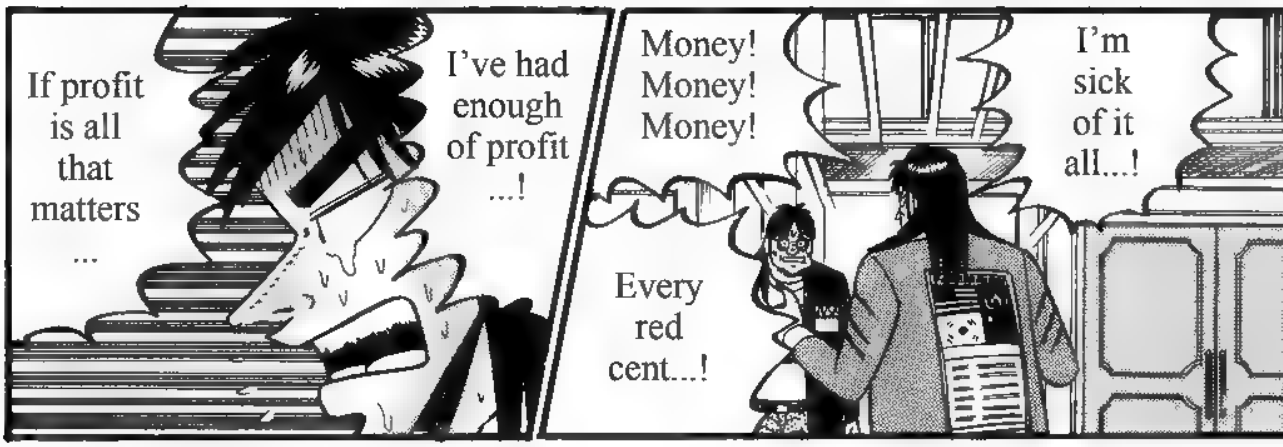




S-Seriously ...?
Huhhh ...!?
For real ...?

Why ...?
But ...
Kaiji -kun ...
Ohh...
Kaiji -san ...!
Why would you save an old man...?
Idiot ...!
...but maybe he's worth a bunch... is that it?
He doesn't look it ...
Is he rich...?
Kaiji -san ...!
...the same as us.
FAR EAST AIR FORCE
He's penniless ...
You can see for yourself ...

I could've thrown the money away ...!
I told you ...
Shut up ...!
Yeah ...!
What's wrong with you ...!?

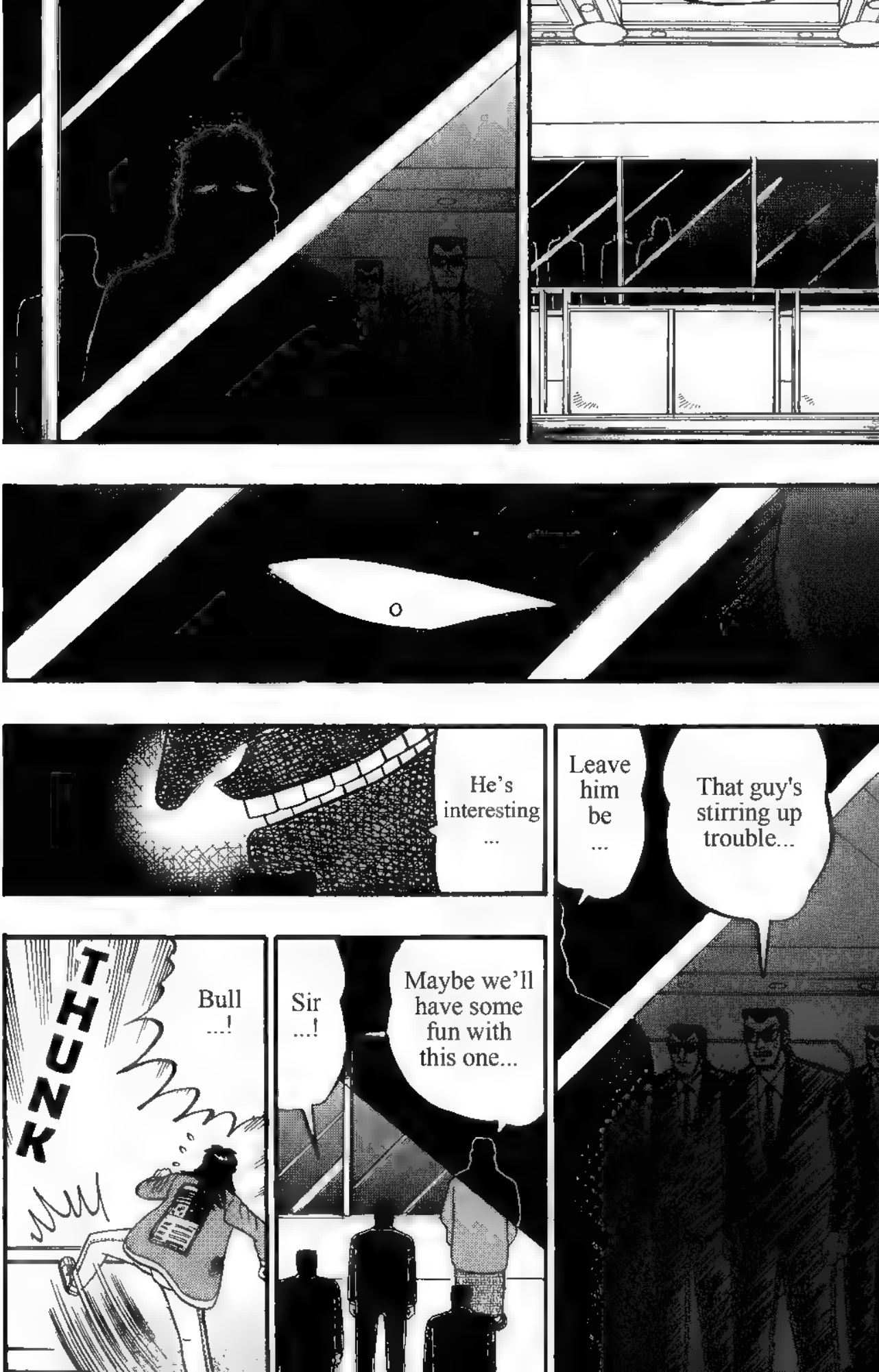

If profit is all that matters ...
I've had enough of profit ...!
Money! Money! Money!
Every red cent...!
I'm sick of it all...!

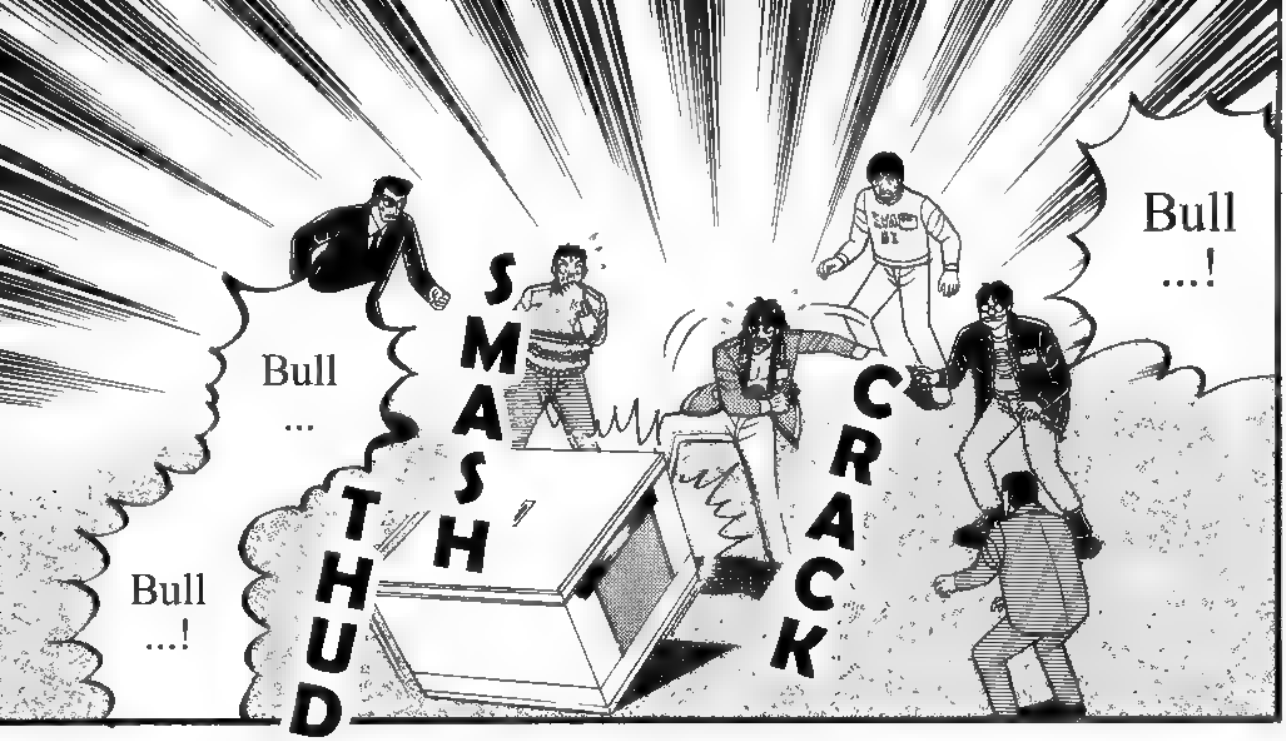
... crawling in the mud!

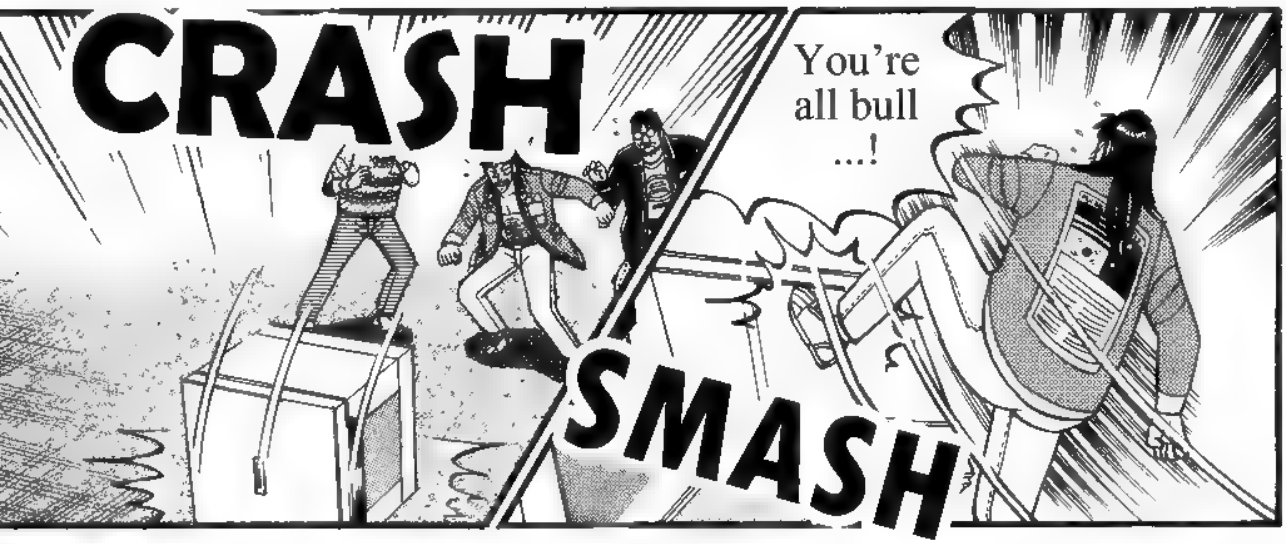
... mangy dogs ...
...then you might as well be...

Ahh ...
Look at yourself ...!
SEOUL

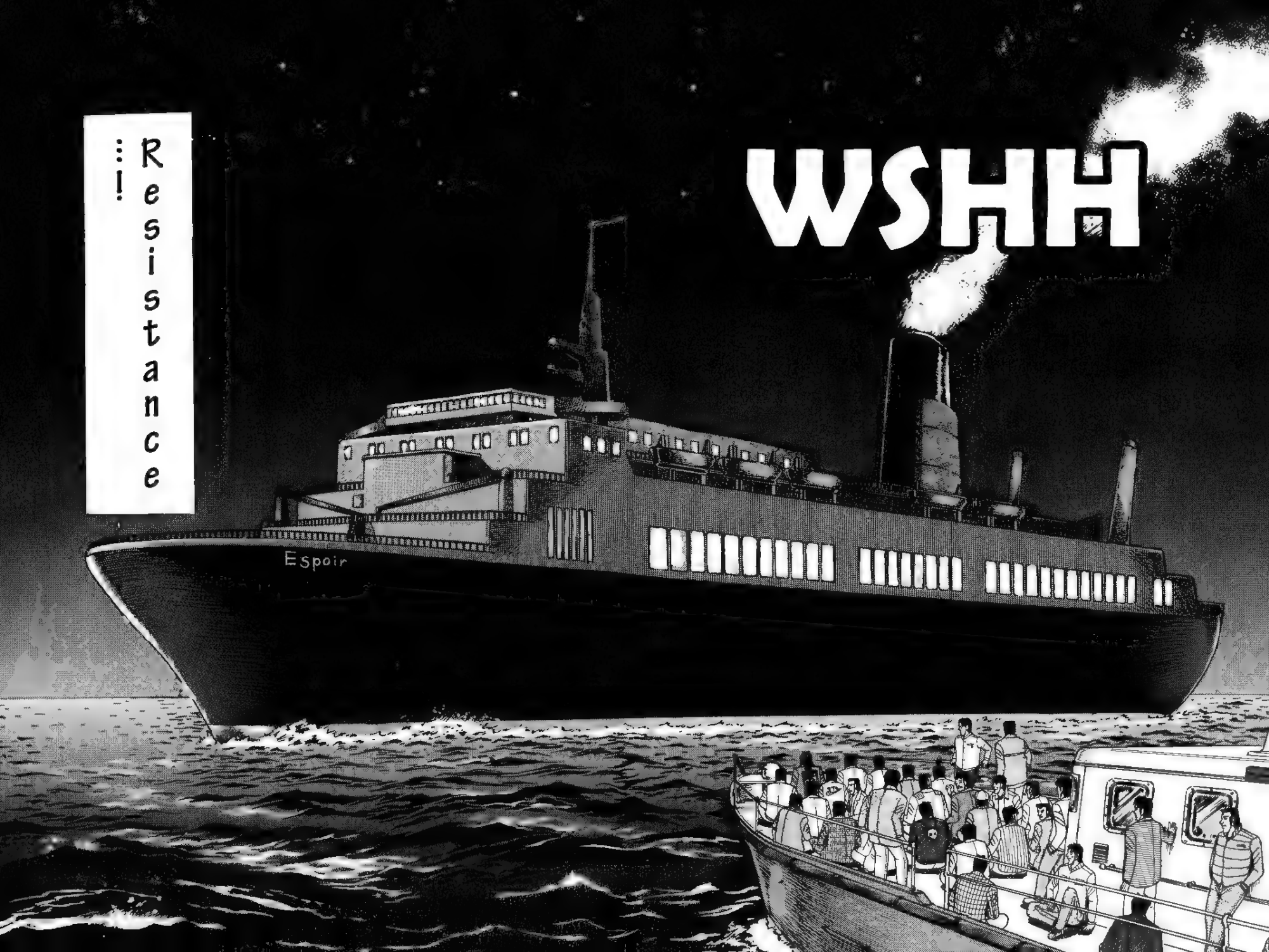
Look at us ...!
Those pigs figured out a way to set us at each other's throats and now they're laughing.
... couldn't have asked for more.
The sponsors on this ship...
Exactly what they hoped for...!
In the end you're playing right into their hands...
Profit at any cost?
Is profit all that matters?
Aren't you ashamed ...!?
SOB SOB SOB
Bull ...!
It's bull ...!
SLAM
Aren't you ashamed of yourself ...!?


o
He's interesting ...
Leave him be ...
That guy's stirring up trouble...
THUNK
Bull ...!
Sir ...!
Maybe we'll have some fun with this one...

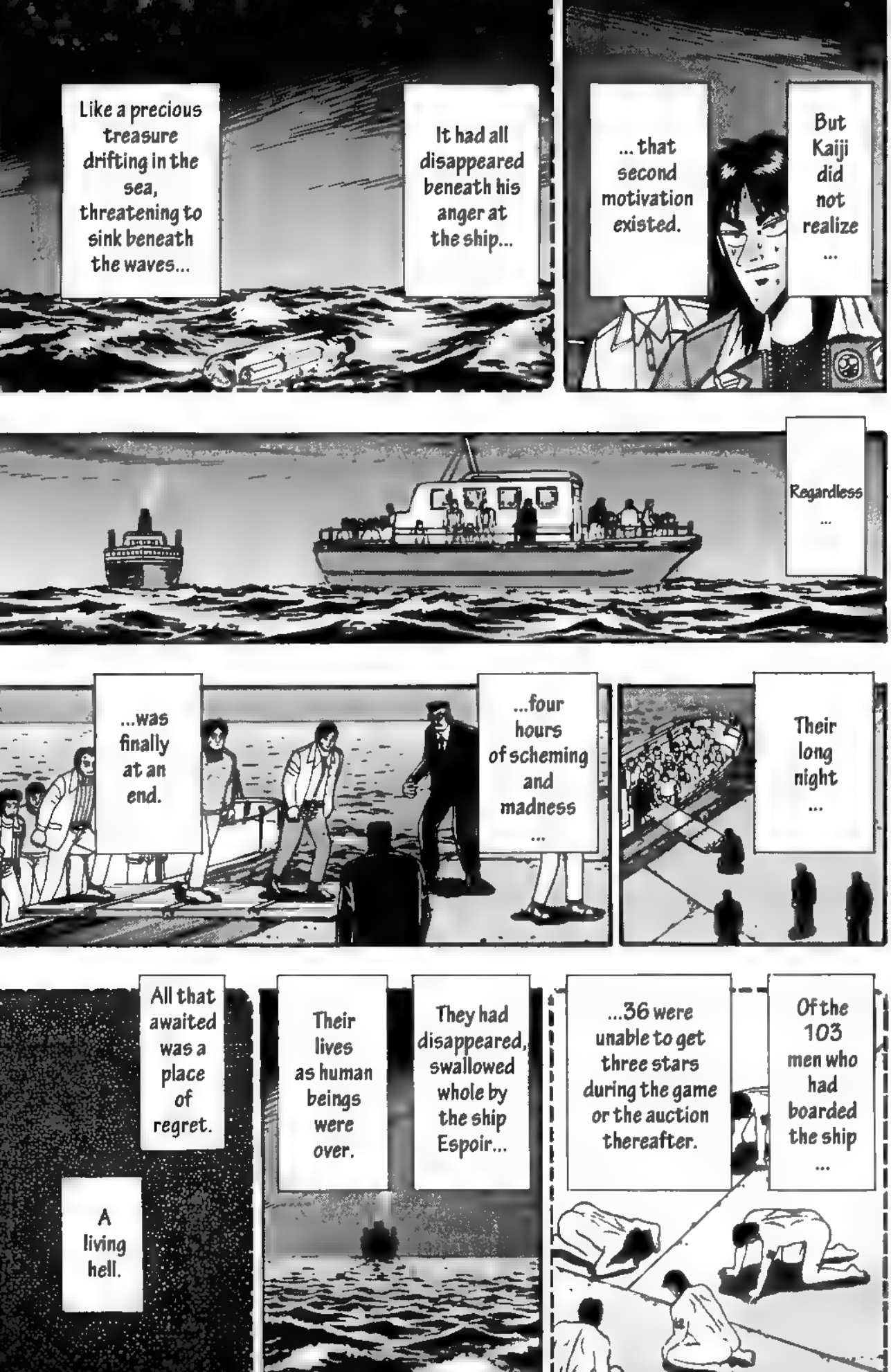

Bull ...!
CRACK
SMASH
THUD
Bull ...
Bull ...!


CRASH
You're all bull ...!
SMASH

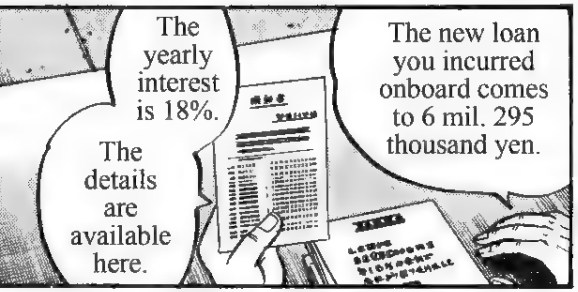
WHSSSHHH
HAH...
HAH...
HAH...
HAH...


WSHH
Espoir
Résistance !!!

... one last blow.
At the very end Kaiji had struck it...
Profit. The unwritten law which had ruled the ship...
...but saving him was a blow of resistance against the ship.
...Kaiji had saved Ishida in an impetuous fit of despair...
...all done in the name of profit...
Disgusted to his core with the despicable groveling...
He had wanted to save him.
...and deep in his heart Kaiji had felt sympathy for him.
They had braved the same fate....
Of course, Kaiji had had another motivation behind rescuing Ishida...
... more than he knew!
Kaiji had wanted to save him...
Ishida was the only one who had shown genuine concern for Kaiji onboard.


Like a precious treasure drifting in the sea, threatening to sink beneath the waves...
It had all disappeared beneath his anger at the ship...
... that second motivation existed.
But Kaiji did not realize ...
Regardless ...
...was finally at an end.
...four hours of scheming and madness ...
Their long night ...
All that awaited was a place of regret.
A living hell.
Their lives as human beings were over.
They had disappeared, swallowed whole by the ship Espoir...
...36 were unable to get three stars during the game or the auction thereafter.
Of the 103 men who had boarded the ship ...

...and leave the ship truly debt-free.
Of the 67 who were allowed to disembark only 29, less than half, were able to pay off their onboard loan entirely...
However, though 67 may have escaped that fate they were not were free to relax.
67 men had narrowly escaped that fate...

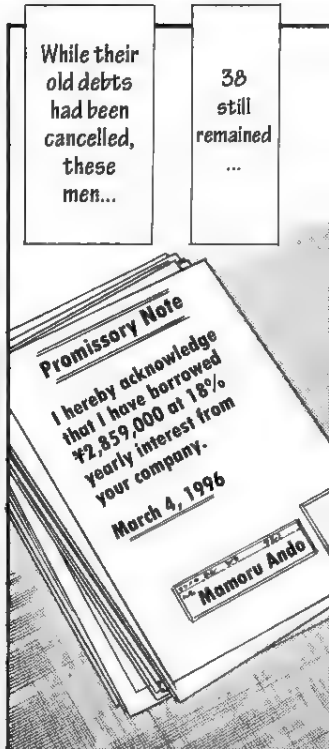

The yearly interest is 18%.
The details are available here.
The new loan you incurred onboard comes to 6 mil. 295 thousand yen.

However
As agreed, your previous loan of 3.85 mil. yen is cancelled...

You will ...
.....
How do you expect me to pay this off...?
Come on ...!
.....
If there's no objections then place your seal here...

Their prayers of becoming debt-free had went unanswered.
... disembarked with a new burden, the debt they had acquired onboard.

Kaiji Ito ...
...as they headed home once more.
...each was left still shouldering an inescapable burden...
Their wounds unhealed ...


While their old debts had been cancelled, these men...
38 still remained ...
Promissory Note
I hereby acknowledge that I have borrowed ¥2,859,000 at 18% yearly interest from your company.
March 4, 1996
Mamoru Ando

Next !
Hmph !
.....
We'll make you...!

CRUNCH
CRUNCH

End of Chapter 54

Act 1

The Ship of Hope

Fin.

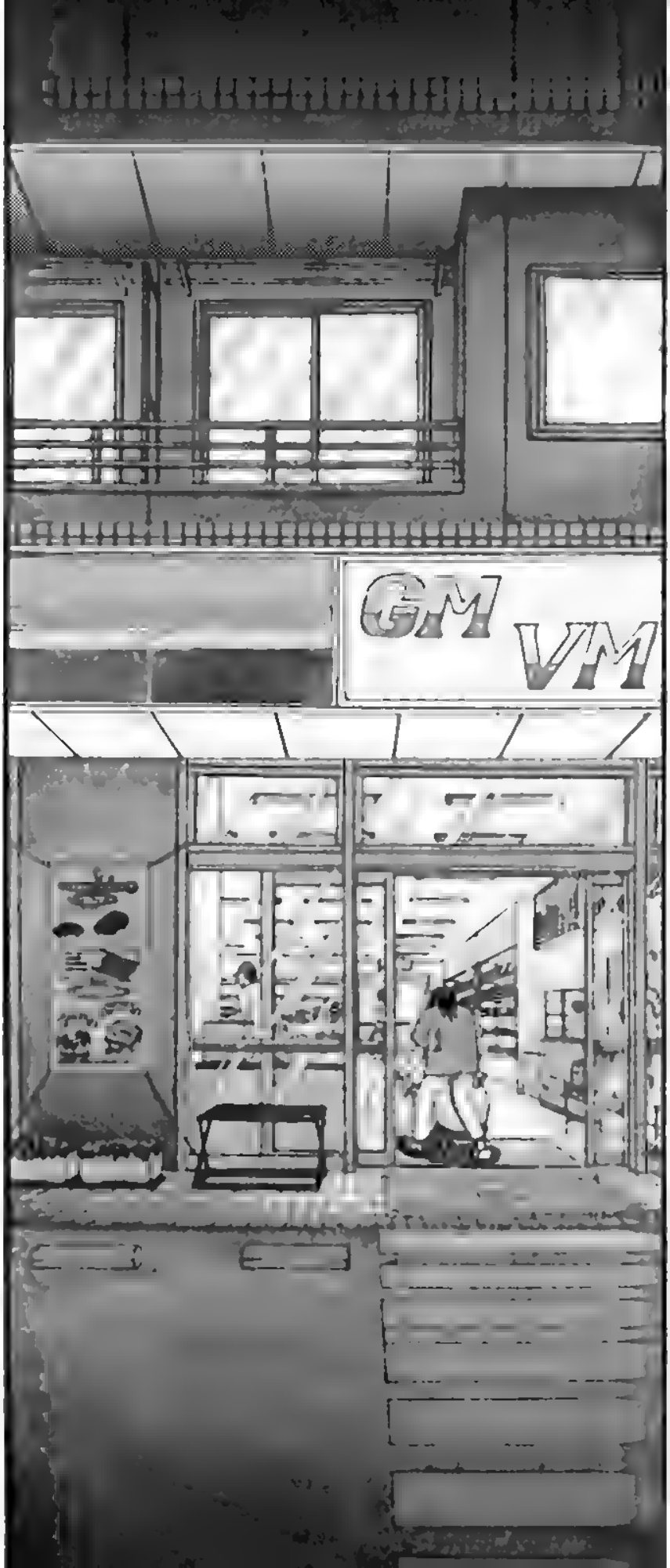
Gambling Apocalypse

Kaiji

Act 2

The Castle of Despair

I'm just getting by...

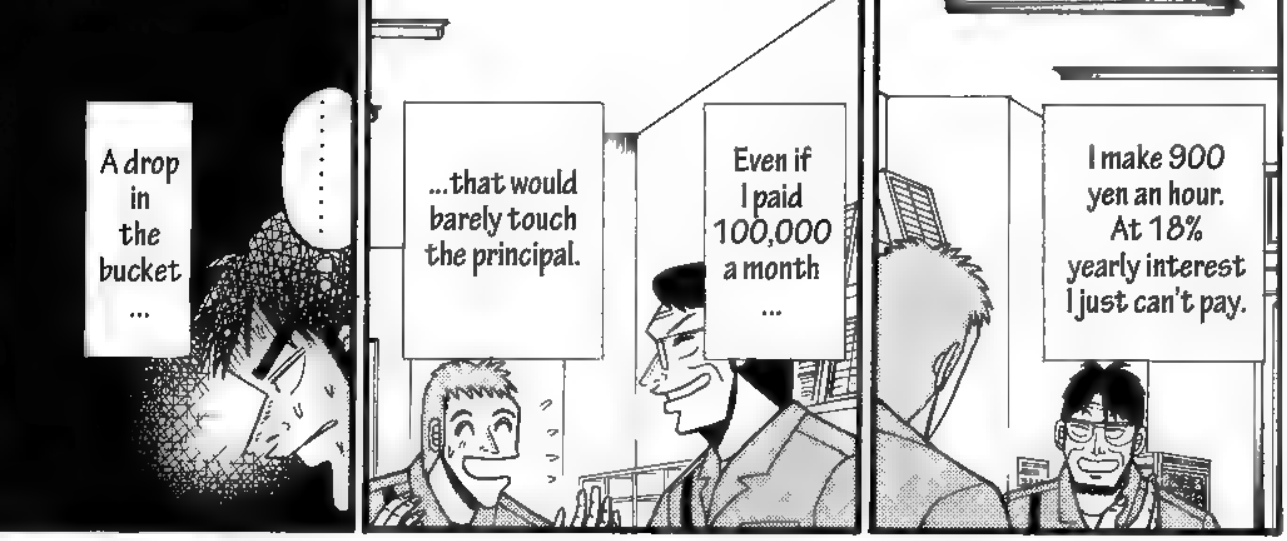


Getting by...

Chapter 55: Suspicion

Surviving.

THUMP
Still ...
KRR
KRR
No one's come to collect on my debt.
...and I haven't had any contact from the ship...
It's been four months ...
I can't help but wonder ...
I can't possibly return 6.29 mil. yen.
.....
It won't do any good.
Of course they can send whoever they like.

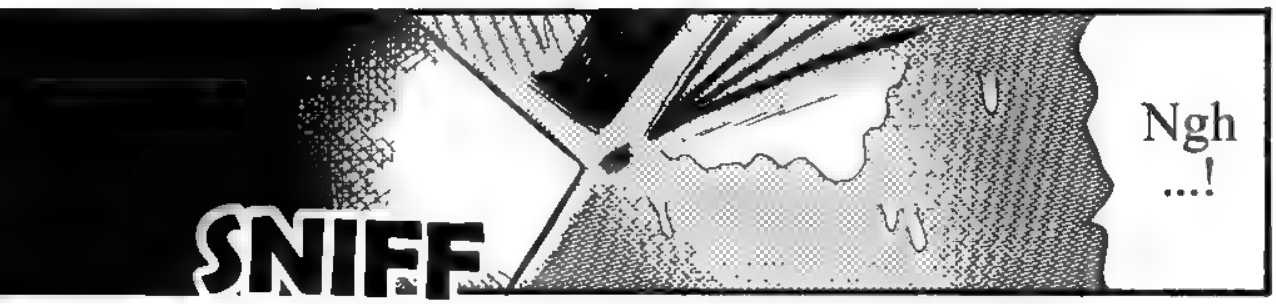

A drop in the bucket ...
.....
...that would barely touch the principal.
Even if I paid 100,000 a month ...
I make 900 yen an hour. At 18% yearly interest I just can't pay.

It'd be wasted effort.
I'd break a good sweat but I wouldn't make it one step forward.
A treadmill marathon.
It'd be like running in place forever.

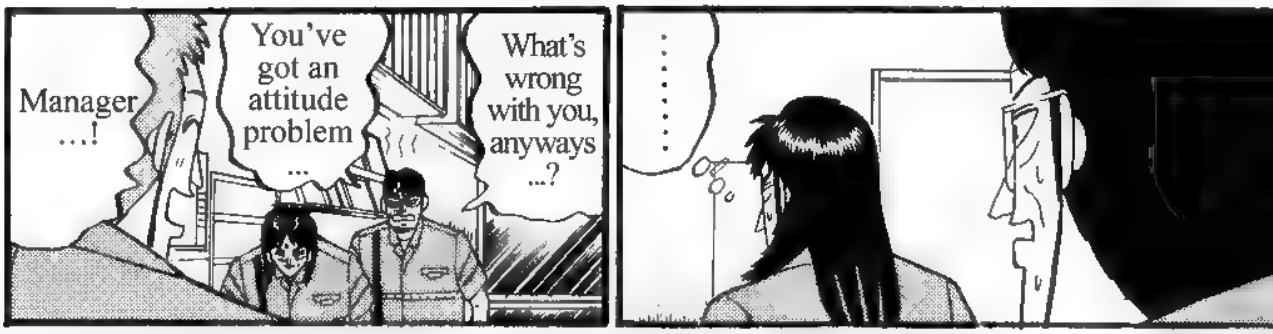
I could go ahead and break my back trying to build something for myself...
So why bother putting in the effort...?
Just not what floats my boat.
They'd have to be masochists ...
I doubt anyone else in my shoes would be very motivated to try...
There'd be something wrong with them if they were.
...like a house of cards.
It would all come crashing down...
...to collect on their loan.
...but one day those goons will show up...

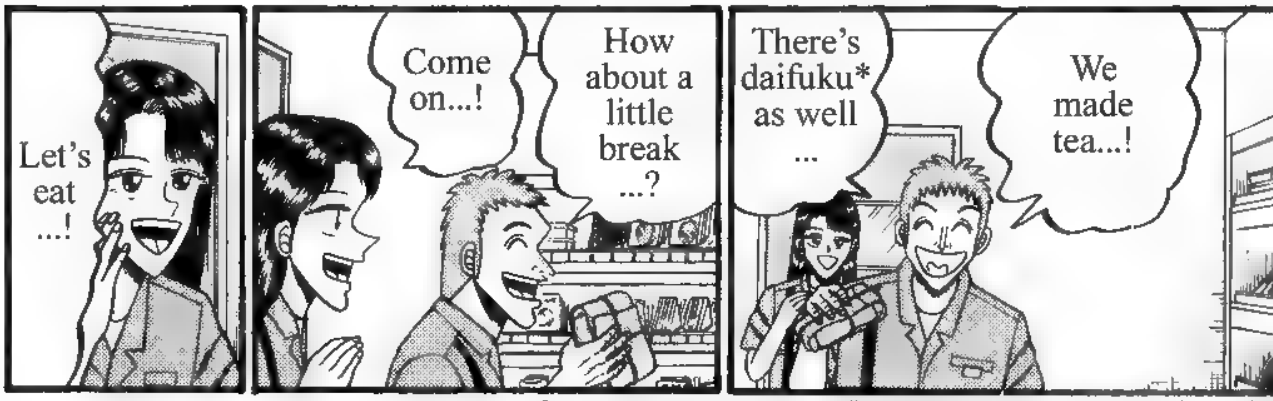
SQUEAK
SPLAT
Man ...!
CLUNK
Man ...!
Man ...!
Man ...!
SQUEAK SQUEAK
Why did I save him...?
With that much money ...
I could have left that ship with 10 mil. yen in my hands.
Why did I bother saving that old man ...?
I could've changed my life ...
I could've made a go of things...
SQUEEGEE
...I could've done something with myself.
I could have left that ship with money.

That was my chance ...!


SNIFF
Ngh ...!

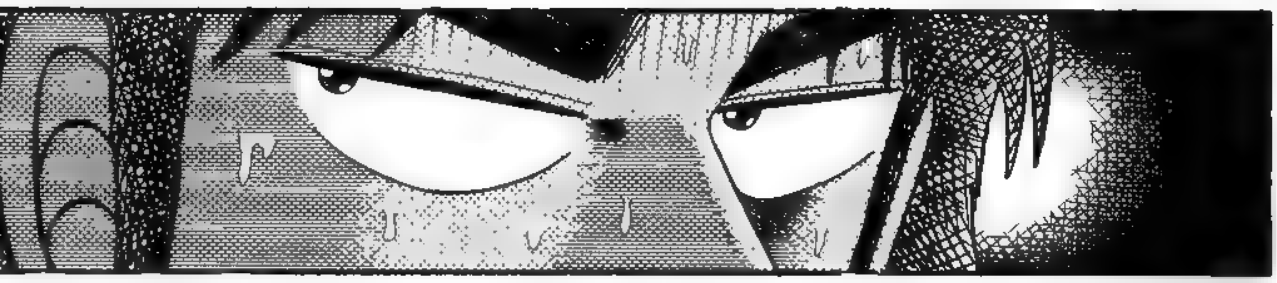
You slackjaw ...!
Get back to work...!
Hey ...!
Man ...!
Let's see those hands move ...!
.....

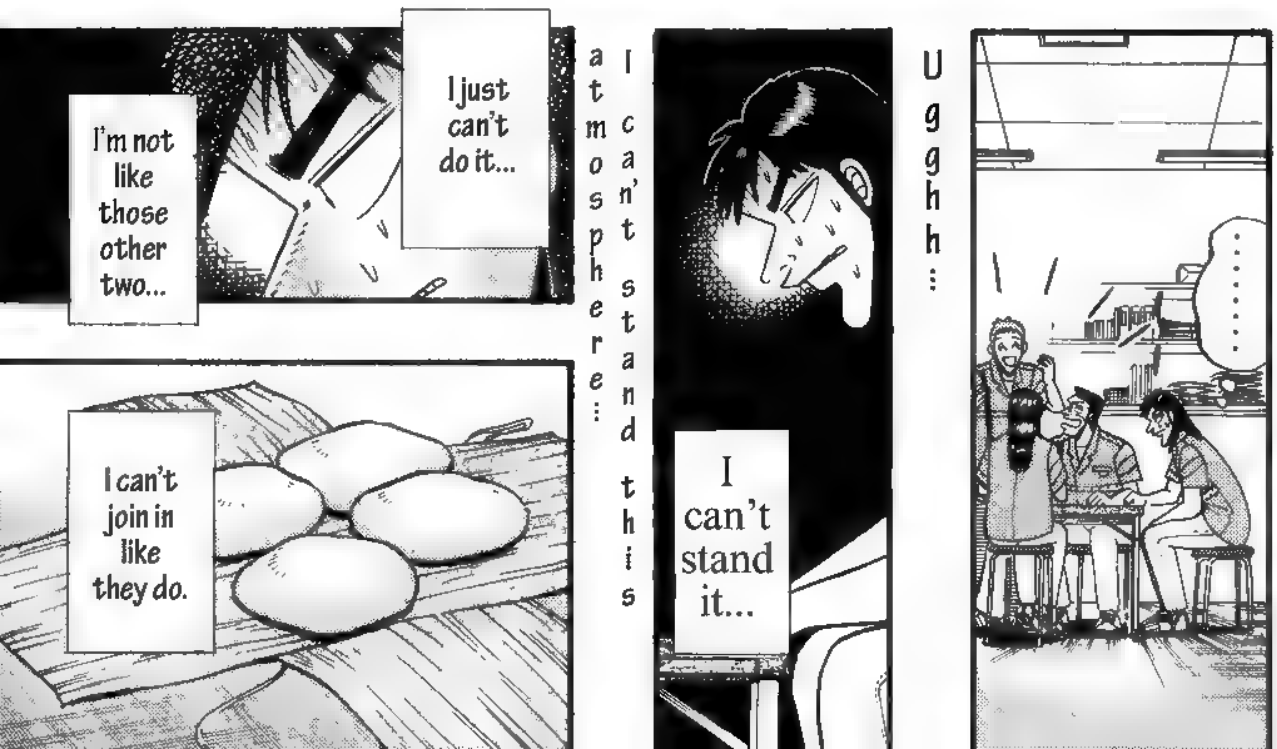




*Daifuku is a traditional Japanese sweet made with 'mochi', or rice cake, filled with sweet bean paste.

Let's go...
Come on, already. You too...
What's now ...?
Hrmm ...
....




I just can't do it...
I'm not like those other two...
I can't stand this atmosphere...
I can't stand it...
I can't join in like they do.
Ugghh...
.....

A problem ...
I'm just a tack in their shoes.
This is what people mean when they call someone "marginal."
.....
That's why they avoid me.
I can't fit in...
That's why my bosses aren't exactly enamored of me...
I've got an inconvenient personality...
I like that it all goes wrong...
It's easier.
But the truth, I guess, is I like it this way...
Clean the windows... take out the trash ...
I'm the one who gets all the dirty jobs.
I end up falling into the loner role, and before I know it...
But it's always the same pattern.
...and trying to fake a smile.
It's so much easier than having to deal with everyone...
...they're treating me like a weirdo.

Huh ...?
I'm going ...
Where is it...?
What in the...
Wait a second ...!
Wai ...
CREAK

Hmph ...
?.....
Wait right there ...!
Yeah ...?
SCRATCH SCRATCH
?
No ...
.....
Did you see the envelope that was stuck in this bookcase ...?
Huh ...?
Kaiji ...
What is it ...?
There was 100,000 yen inside ...
.....

Huh ...?
But why don't you show me your bag...?
Sorry ...
Yeah ...?
.....
I'm not saying that ...but I do have to be sure.
.....
I'm not saying that...
Are you accusing me of stealing it...?
Whaddya think you're doing...?
H-Hold on just a minute ...

Come on ...!
Sure of what ...?
Just shut up and show me the bag...!
Obviously if we compare you to everyone else...
...you're the suspicious one!
Heheh ...
.....
.....
Show me the bag...!
...you're absolutely right.
In that case...
I'm the suspicious one...?
That's how it is...
I see... I see...
Hehehe ...
But ...
I better show you my bag...!

Let's make a bet...!
...not for free.

...and if the money's there...
I'll open my bag and take out my stuff...
Huh ...?

...have to pay me 100,000 yen!

... then you ...
...if the money's not there ...

...I'll pay you another 100,000...no, make it ten times that...1 mil. yen....
In exchange :

That's fair, isn't it ...?
Ahh ...!

.....
It's only right that there's some risk involved...
Accusing someone is a serious matter...
Don't you agree ...?
Well ...?
Ngh ...
Huh ...?
I see what's going on...
You little punk ...
.....
Have you decided ...?
You ...
Isn't it, Kaiji ...!?
Maybe you don't have it now, but you stole it...!
That's why you came up with that crazy idea.
...or when you were taking out the trash...
Somewhere inside the store...
You can't fool me...
You hid it...!

Ngh ...!
You thief ...!
Aghh ...!
Don't do it, Kaiji-san...!
Stop ...!
You lousy, no good ...!
ZOON
Do you wanna get punched ...!?
Go to the registers ...!
M-Manager ...! You can't accuse people without any proof...!
Sahara ...!

Let me go...!
I'm letting of...!
Ah... Ahhh ...
The registers ...!
Let go...!
Ahh ...!
Let me at him ...!
...so why don't you just go home for today, Kaiji-san.
I'm letting go...
Come on, now...
I'll show him pacifist ...
Right ...?
...Kaiji-san.
Just suck it up for now ...
Ahh ...!
He's what they call a pacifist.
What ...!?
You saw him.
Go home ...?
He's all talk. He doesn't really wanna get into it.

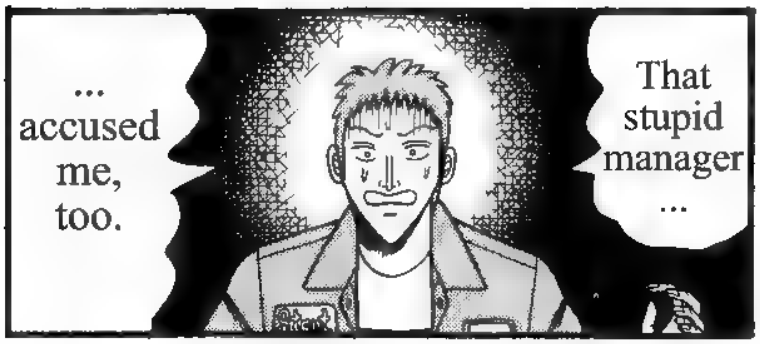
...are all the same.
Adults these days...
...but he's not gonna put up money, or fight you.
The manager might be willing to talk big...
I told you...
What are you doing ...?
Hey ...!
.....
See you later ...!?
.....
See you later ...!
.....
.....
...but making accusations ...
Being suspicious is one thing...
Those were fighting words...
You gotta be kidding me...!
You ...

...that's just begging for it!
Isn't it...!?
Man ...!
THUMP

Kaiji-
saaann
...!

Hah
Hah

Bad news ...!
Wait! Wait! Wait!
Wait ...!


... accused me, too.
That stupid manager ...

Wanted me to empty my bag.
He wouldn't stop bugging me...

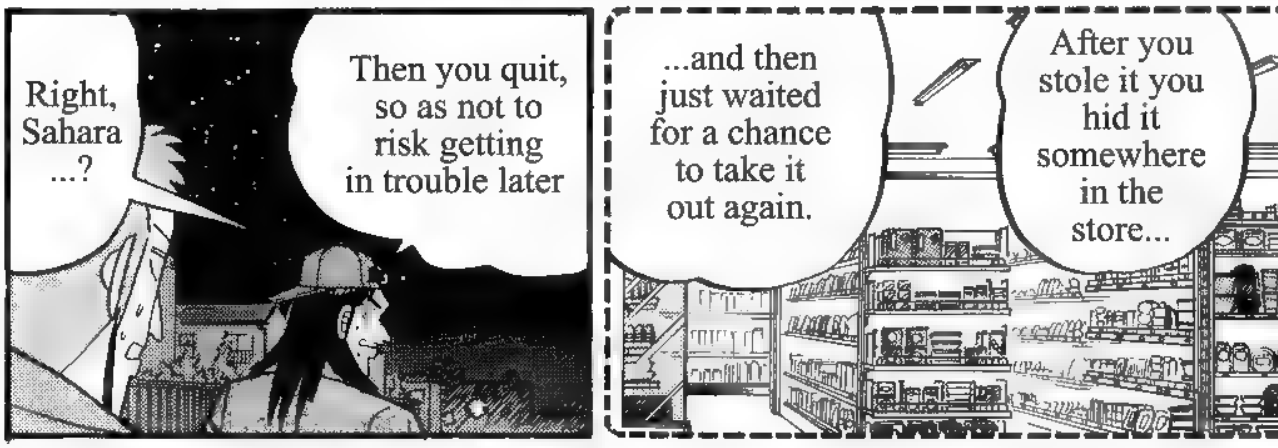
38

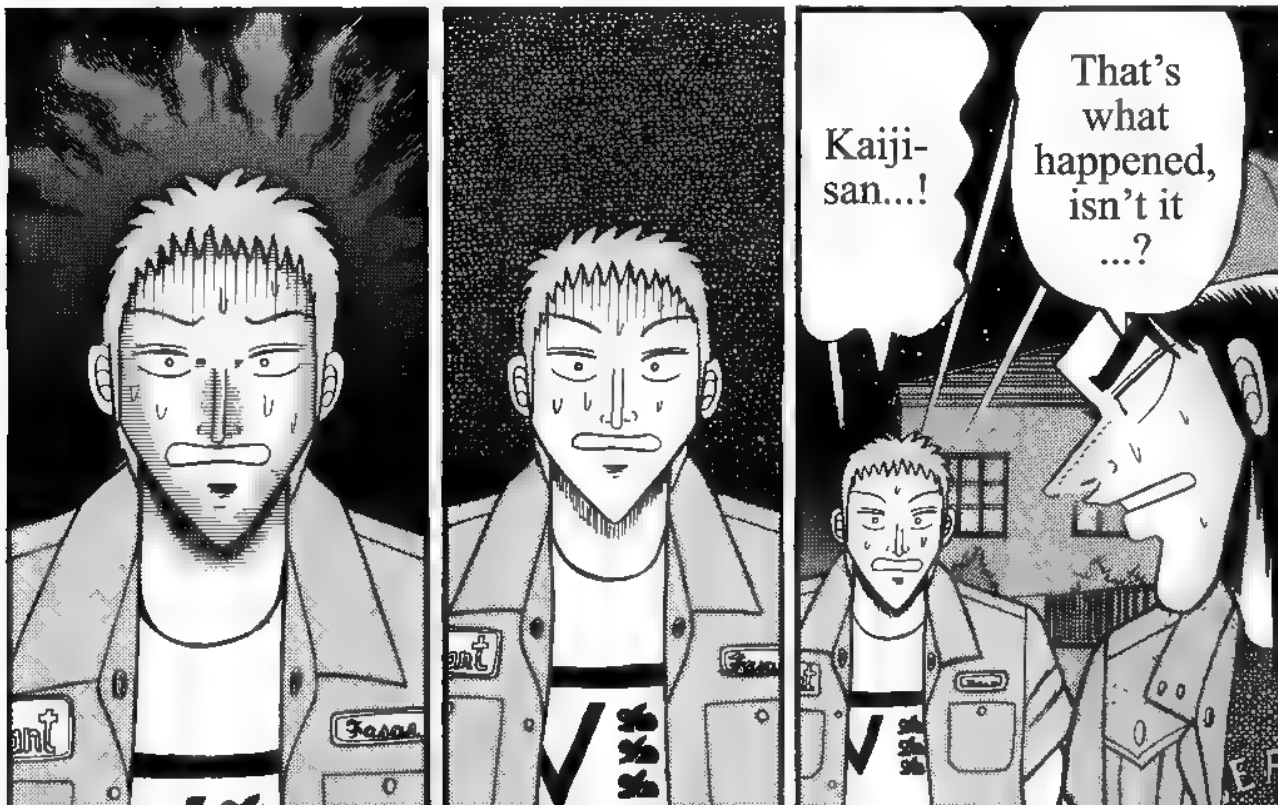
Yeah ...
You quit...?
...so I just up and quit!
He was really pissing me off...
.....
...forgot about it, then made that big scene...
I bet he left the envelope lying around someplace ...
That jerkwad probably just got confused.
I guess that means...
You quit...
I see ...
Yeah ...

...that it was you?
Huh ...?

I don't believe he just misplaced the envelope.
Wh-What are you talking about...?
Huh ...!?
You're the one who stole the manager's money...!
And... in that case...
The money definitely disappeared ...
...to make such a fuss about it.
He had to have been sure...
There's that girl, Nishio, as well ...
...but she's out of the question.
Which leaves either me or you.
...it had to have been one of us.
Since customers can't enter the office...
Kaiji-san...!
...that you're the one who stole the money.
So that means, of course ...
She never has a chance to go in there alone.
Nishio is almost always with either you or the manager...

...didn't turn anything up...
If inspecting your bag...
...then it must be like he said.
.....
I'm telling you the truth...
You've got the wrong idea...!

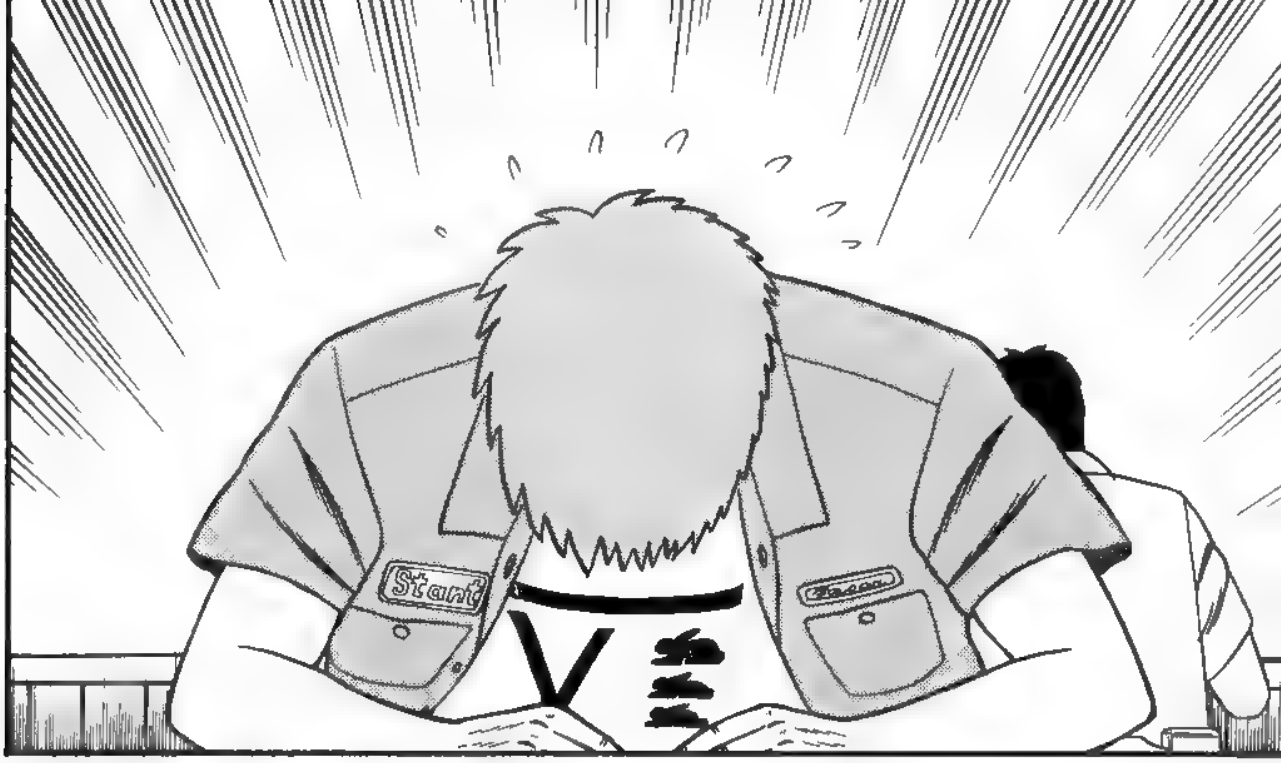

Right, Sahara ...?
Then you quit, so as not to risk getting in trouble later
...and then just waited for a chance to take it out again.
After you stole it you hid it somewhere in the store...

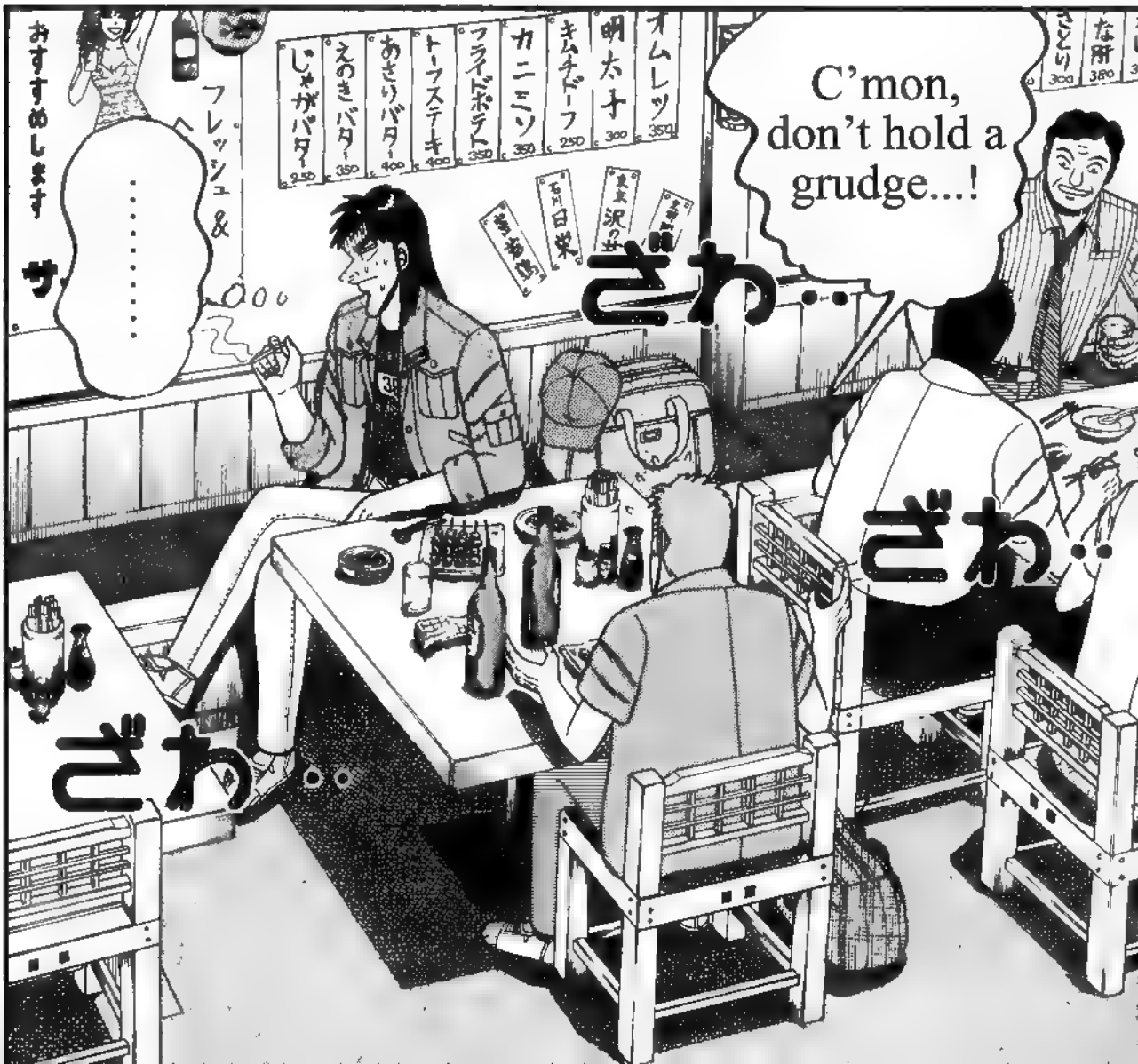

Kaiji-san...!
That's what happened, isn't it ...?

Phew ...!
SWOOSH
Well I guess if you figured that much out...
THUD
SCRATCH SCRATCH
Now what do I do ...!?
Huh ...!?
JA-JAN
SLIP
...there's no need to be shy.

End of Chapter 55

Chapter 56: Emissary




C'mon, don't hold a grudge...!
ざわ…
ざわ…
ざわ…
フレッシュ&
……
サ
おすすめします
オムレツ 350
明太十 300
キムチドーフ 250
カニニソ 350
フライドポテト 350
トーフステーキ 400
あさりバター 400
えのきバター 350
じゃがバター 250
な所 380

But see...
I'm mad because you used me as your patsy...!
That's not why I'm mad...!
That jerk practically deserves to have his money stolen...!

PHEW
C'mon now, Kaiji-san.

.....

I'm in tears here...
That's why I'm making it up to you like this...!

SUNTORY

.....

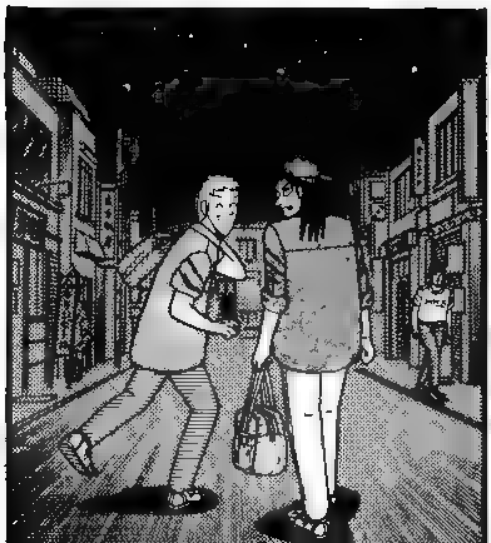
Let's drink...!
Can't we be friends again...!?
Chug it...! Chug it...!

.....
Ooo
石川
日栄
富山
若鶴
38

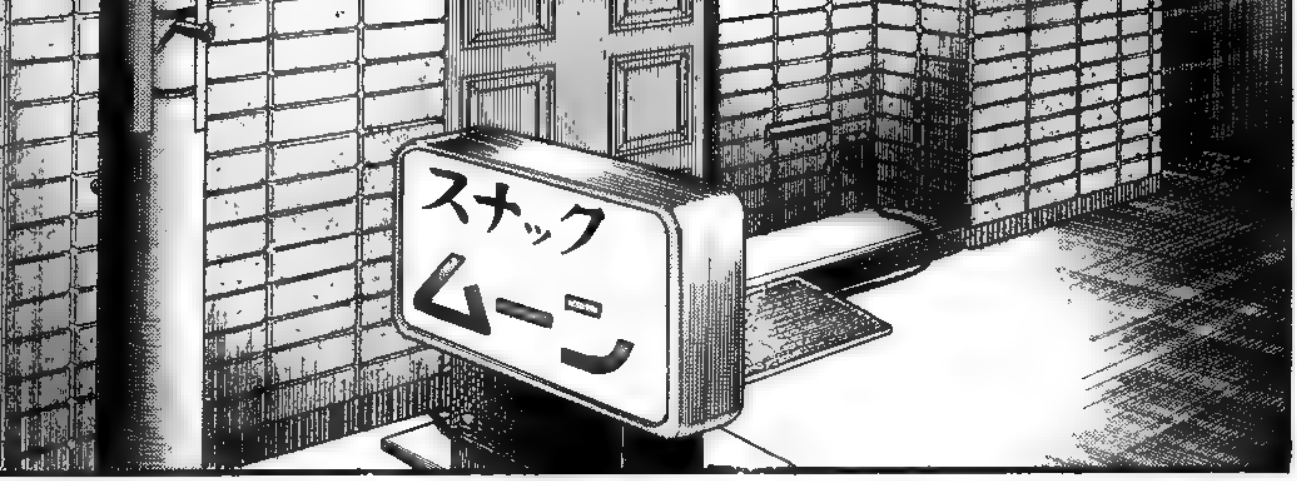
This place is closing soon...
It's time for a change of scenery.

Huh ...?
We should probably get going, then...
38

Way to go...!
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
Ahhh ...!



COFFEE


スナック
ムーン

Yeah ...?
You know Kaiji-san...

.....

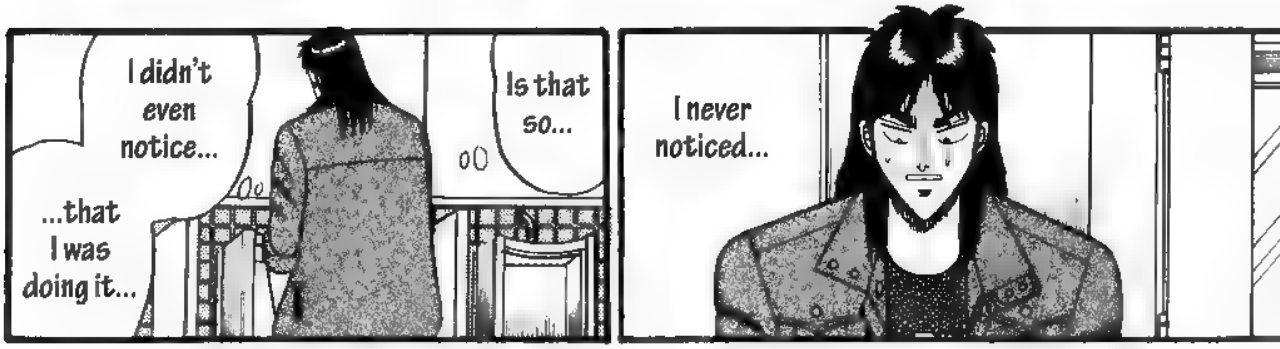
?.....
You've got a different smell...
There's something different about you...

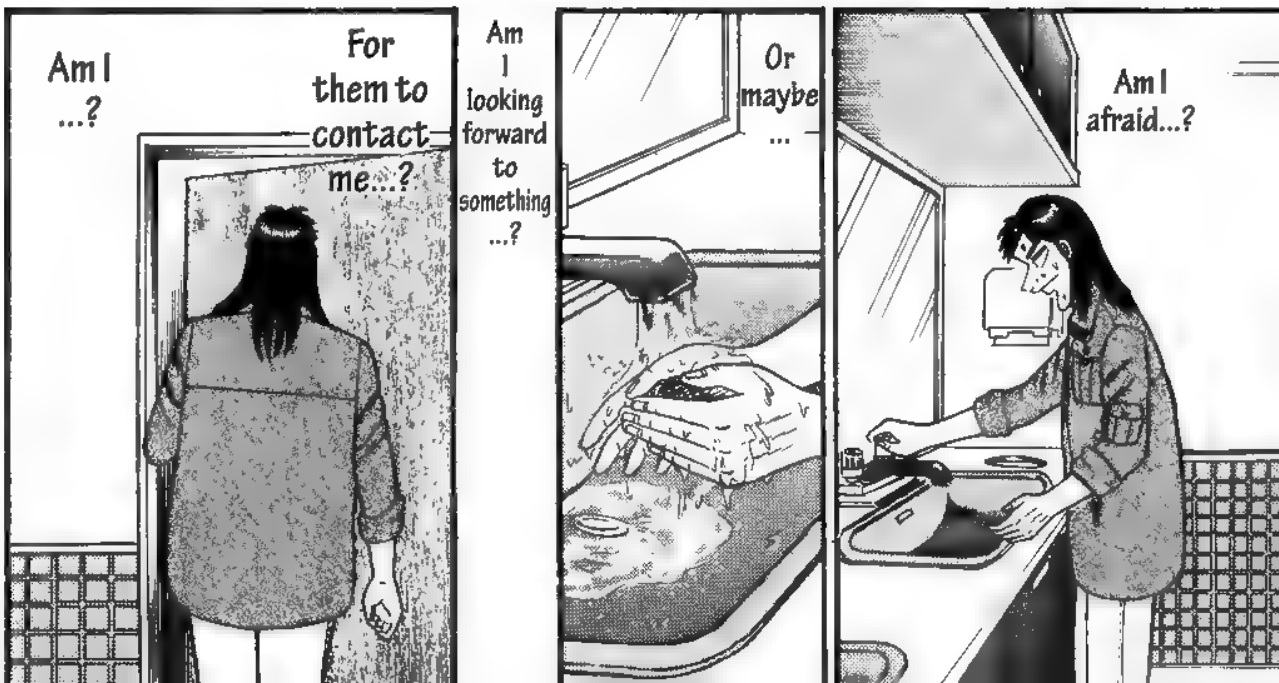
You gotta be kidding ...!
You smell like money... big money...
You know what it is...?
Like you're an outlaw...
Yeah, something dangerous ...
A different smell ...?

I know you don't have any money.
I know that...
What I'm talking about ...
Hmph ...
I'm about as poor as they come...
Did you bump your head or something?
Maybe it's not legal, but one big catch and you're set for life.
A really juicy lead... something dangerous ....
...is the smell of money.
Am I right ...?
I bet you've had your hands in something like that before...
You know what I'm talking about, right...?
Then why are you being followed?
You're crazy, you know that...
KYAHAHAHA...
Pssht ...!
.....

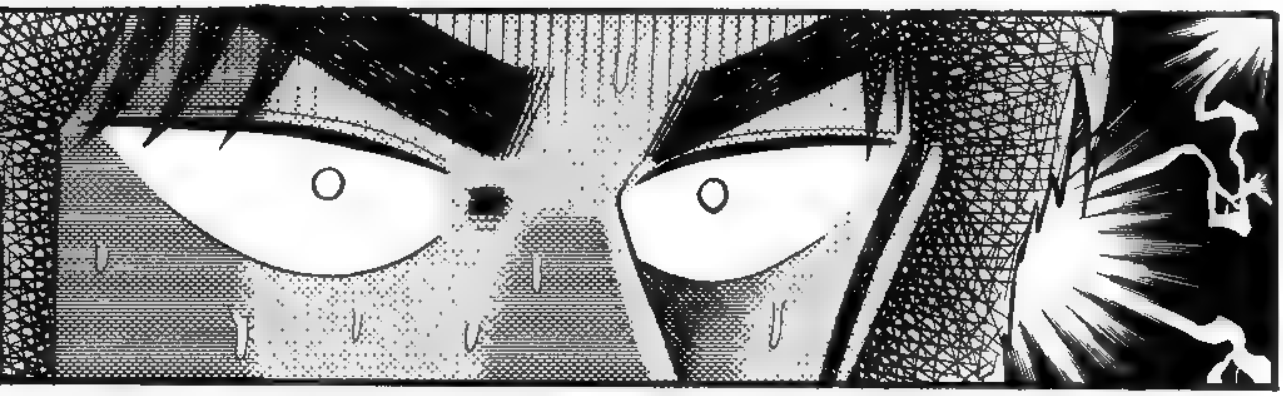
Your seat...
Huh ...?
...you sat where you can see the entrance.
Here, and in the last store too...
38
Somebody's following you, aren't they, Kaiji-san?
...you always look to see.
And whenever somebody comes through the door...
Numbskull ...!
You're just thinking too much.
Knock it off...
Stuff like that's exciting... it's cool...
I wanna hear...
Tell me!

TOILET
...but you're off-base this time!
I don't know what you're talking about...

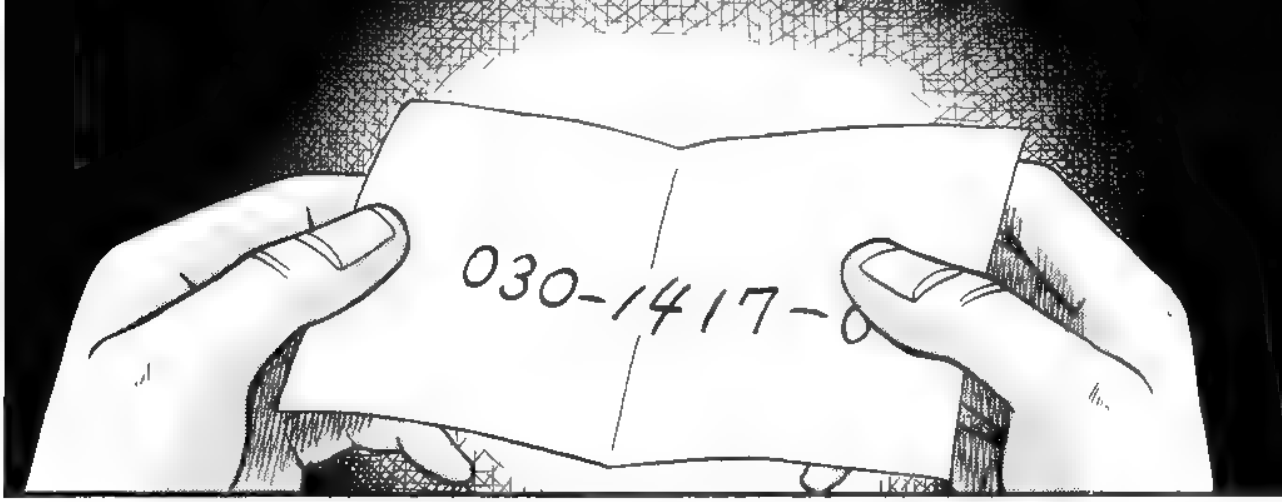

I didn't even notice...
...that I was doing it...
Is that so...
I never noticed...


Am I ...?
For them to contact me...?
Am I looking forward to something ...?
Or maybe ...
Am I afraid...?

...and gave this to me!
Some guy in a black suit came in...
?.....
Just now, when you went to the toilet...
Huh ...?
Here, look ...
.....
Kaiji-san...



.....
Have they come ...?
It's them ...!

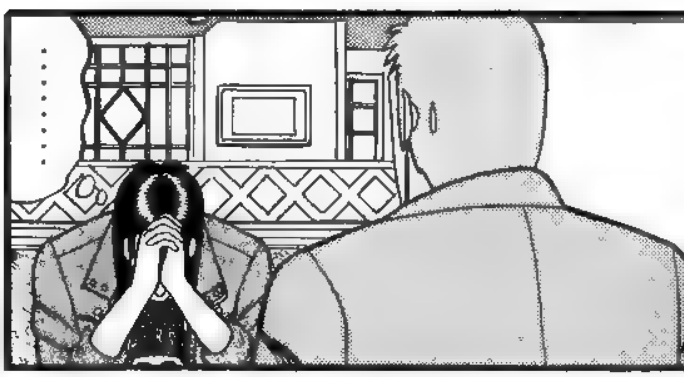

030-1417-0

Be quiet ...!
Aren't you going to call it...?

.....
CRUNCH

Right ...?
It's a cell phone number...

.....


.....

I'm gonna go to the bathroom.

Hmm...
CLATTER

GGZZZRRRR
GGZZZRRRR
GGZZRRRR
BOOP
BOOP
BOOP
CLICK
...
What do you want...?
Tell me your name...
Who is this ...?
.....
.....
38

Pssht ...
Tell me who you are...!
.....
38
Heeheeheehee...
Bwahahahah...
SHEEN
That voice ...
Huh ...?
Heeheehehe

Kaiji-saaannn ...!

Stop following me...!
You don't need to get so angry about it...
Get lost...!
I'm sorry already...

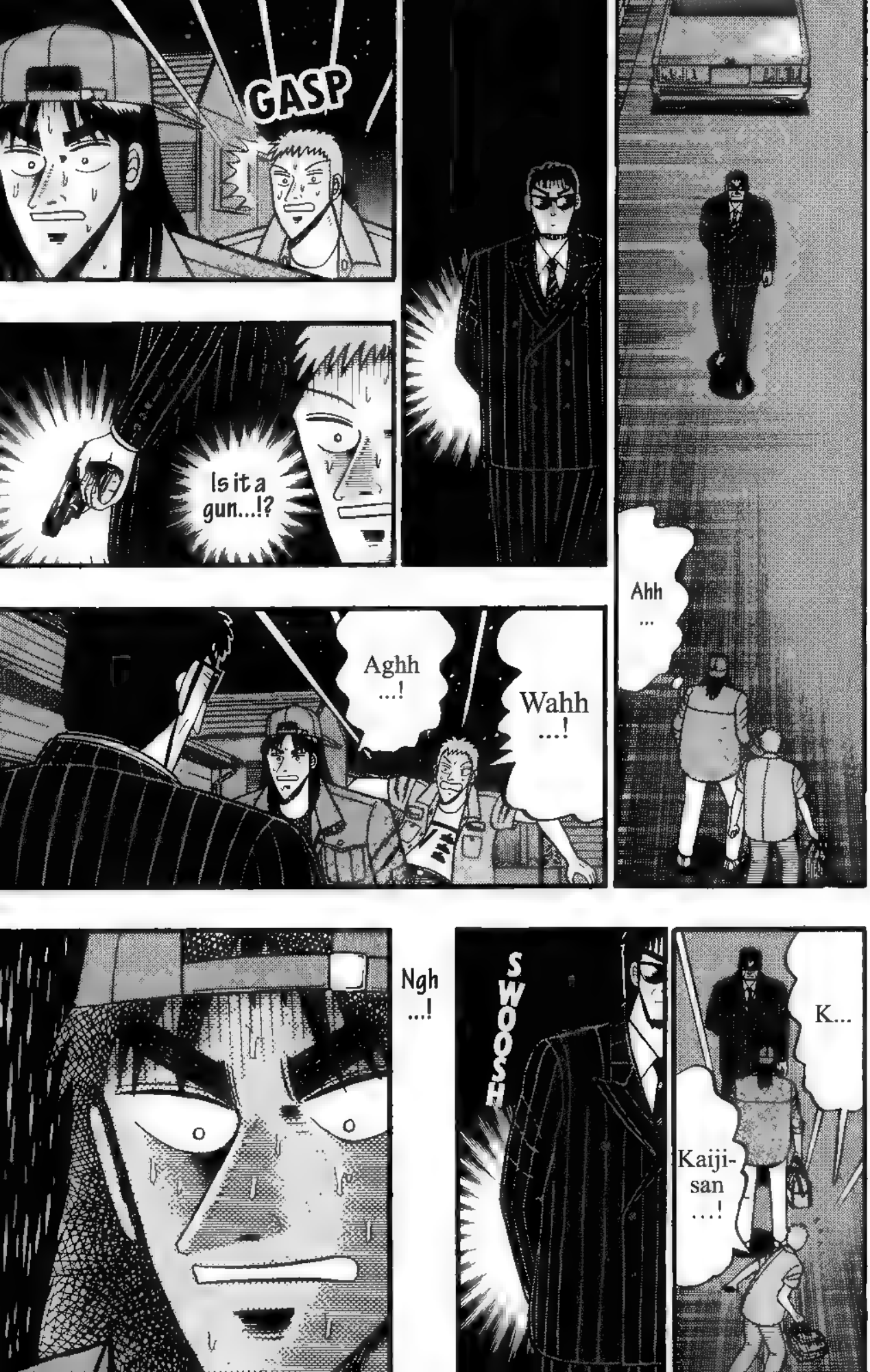
Quit whining ...!
We can't call it a night like this.

Why are you still here...!?
C'mon, let's go for another drink...!

38

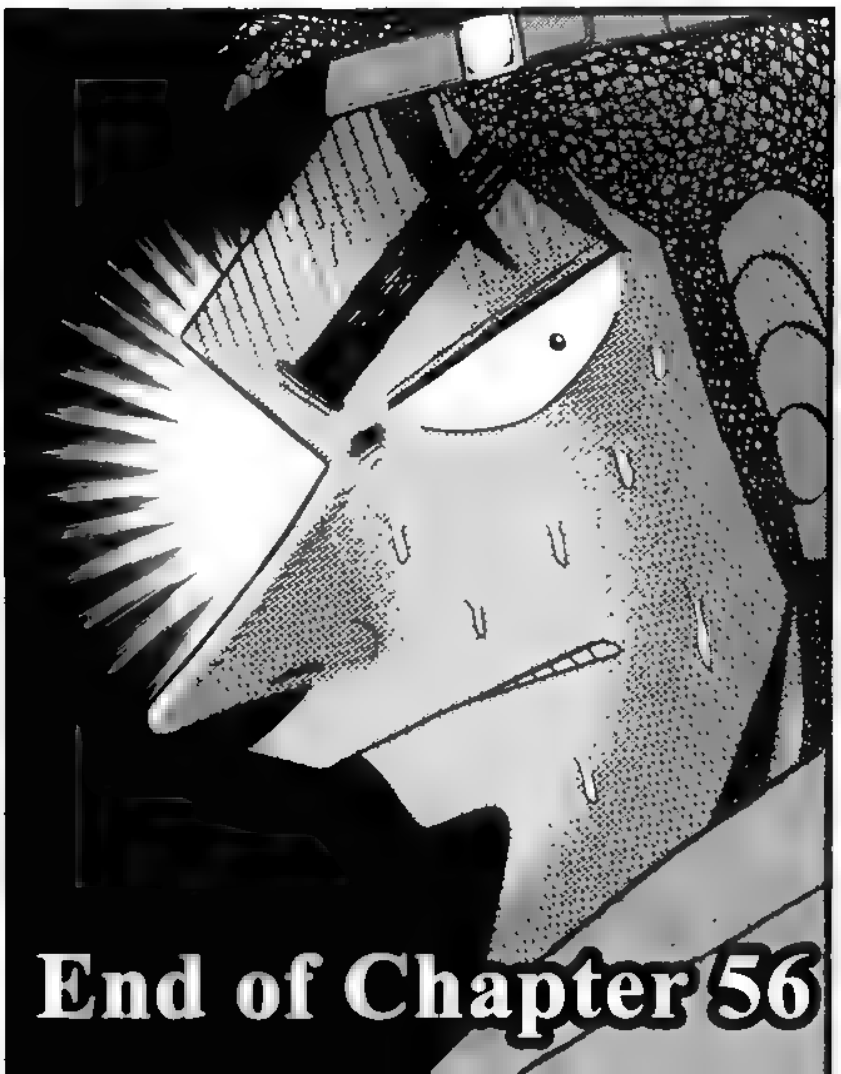
Let go...
Kaiji-san...!

Ahh ...!
That's him...
Endo ...!
He's the reason I wound up on the Espoir...


GASP
Is it a gun...!?
Ahh ...
Aghh ...!
Wahh ...!
Ngh ...!
SWOOSH
K...
Kaiji-san ...!

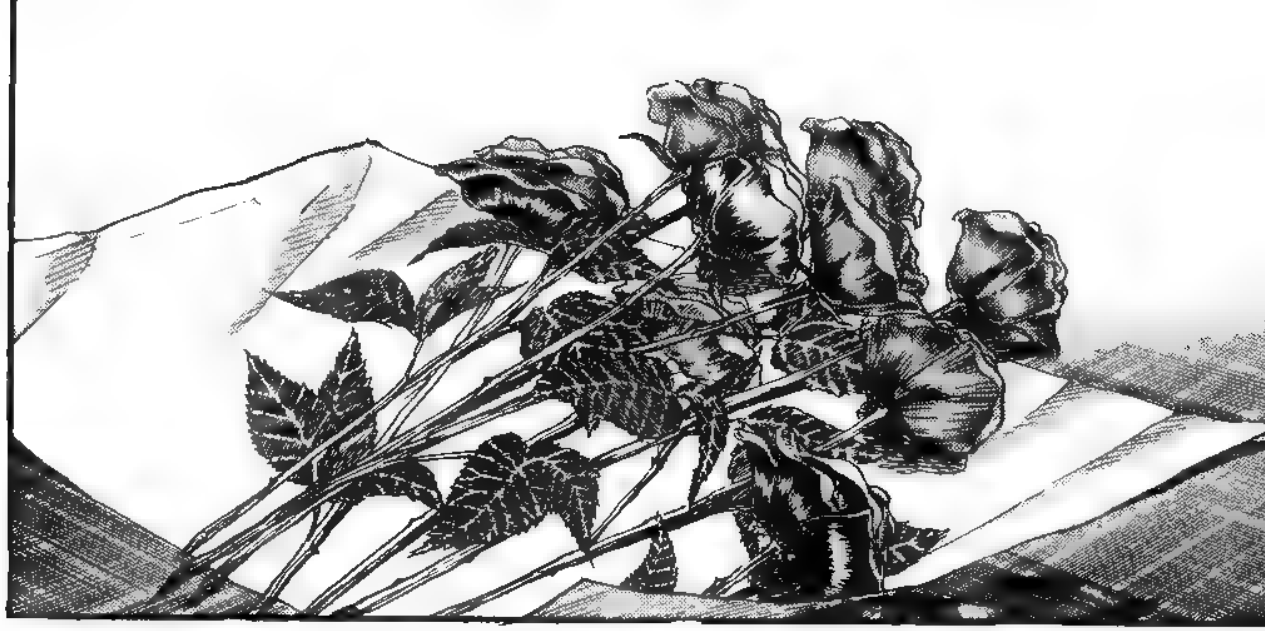
Kaiji ...!
Welcome back ...!

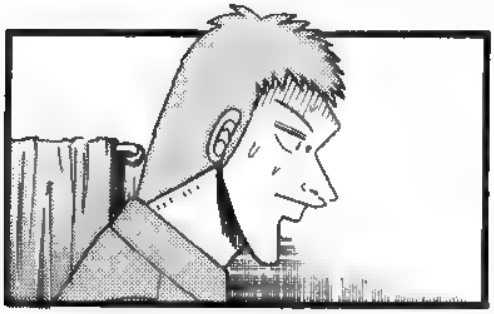
Ngh ...!
Huh ...?
Kaiji, wait ...
HMPH
I actually have a proposition for you.
Hear me out ...
Just one night ...
? .....



End of Chapter 56

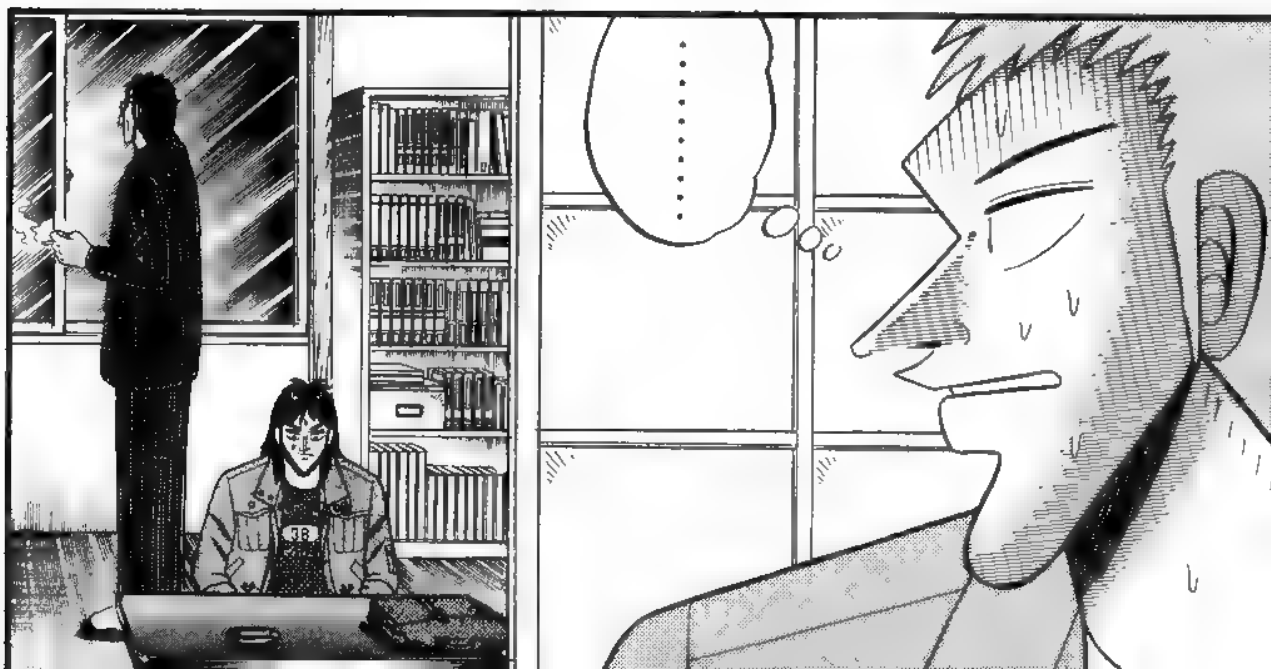
Chapter 57: Downtrodden





SHHH

……


……

Saturday, next week ...
There's a special party ...
We're recruiting participants now ...
About 60 people ...
.....
.....
Hmph ...

Obviously, gambling is involved ...!
You gotta be kidding me ...!
Hold it ...!
Maybe even more ...
Hold on ...
If all goes well you could make 20 mil. in one night ...
38
RAMU
Who do you expect to fall for ...
SLAM

Please ...!

You idiot ...!
Hehehe ...
Please let me join in the party!

Stupid...! Stupid...! Idiot..!
Snap out of it ...!

Alright, alright ...
Please ...!

Idiot ...!
Yessir ...!
You want in ...?

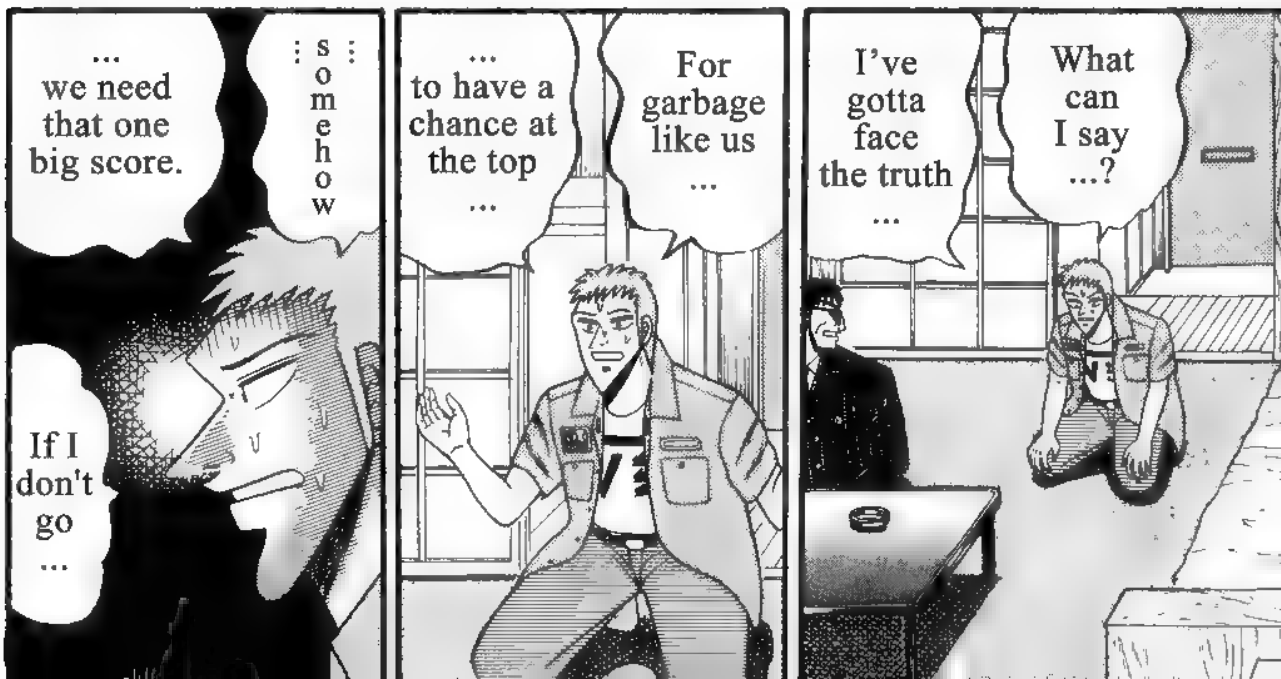
The truth is I've been waiting for a chance like this for as long as I can remember.

Kaiji-san ...
You don't know what you're getting into so keep your mouth shut ...!

This isn't the kind of game you're thinking of ...
... so just shut up!

I get what you're saying.
I get it ...

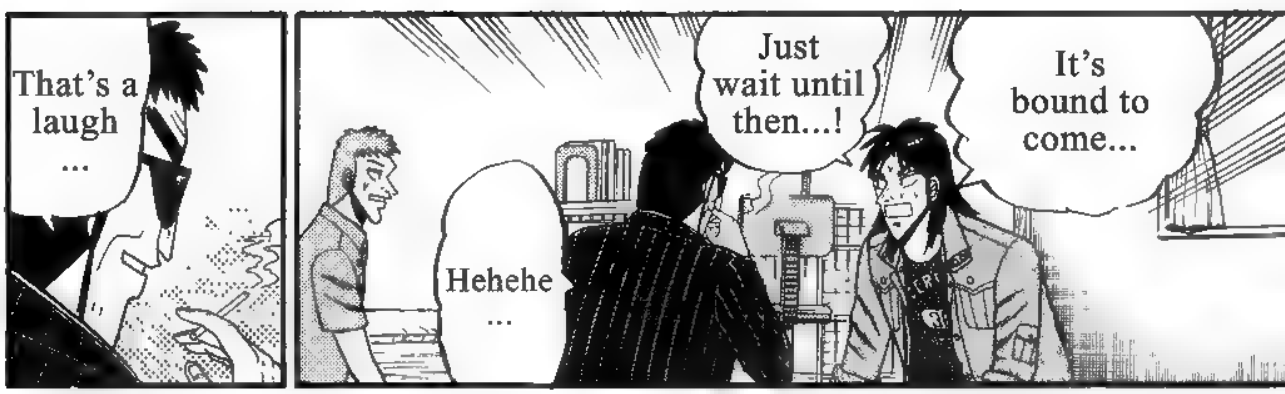
All the same ...
... but one mistake could cost you everything.
The payoff might be big ...
It's risky, right ...?


... we need that one big score.
... somehow ...
If I don't go ...
... to have a chance at the top ...
For garbage like us ...
I've gotta face the truth ...
What can I say ...?

I've got to get out, into the world ...!
How will I get out of this cage...!?
Sahara ...
.....
This is my way out ...!
But ...
I know how you feel ...
Listen ...
.....
.....
... you can't do this!
38
RAMU

He's a shady old man... you can't just fall for what he says....!
This isn't some lucky chance ...!
Open your eyes ...!

... sooner or later.
A real chance will come for you...
Just wait ...!
Kaiji-san ...
Don't let him trick you ...!
Don't worry ...!

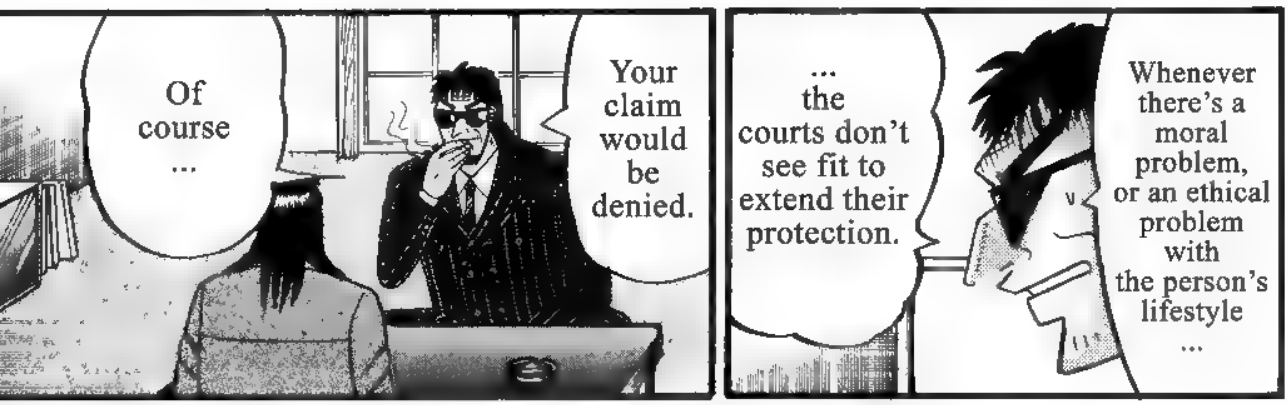

That's a laugh ...
Hehehe ...
Just wait until then...!
It's bound to come...

You gotta be dreaming ...!

... but who knows if that chance will ever come.
It's easy to talk big ...
ざわ・・
.....
Wait for what...? For how long...?
.....
You think you can "wait"...?
... while you "wait"?
... living your dismal life like some braindead animal ...
... working for minimum wage ...
You wanna live in this grungy apartment ...
You punk ...
... the interest on your loan is gonna keep piling up ...
... to sit here and rot ...
Even if you're happy ...
.....
You're joking, right ...?

Ngh ...!
Don't you see ...!?
When are you gonna catch on!?
Even at that nice rate of 18% per year ...
6.29 mil. yen.
FLICK
... your loan totaled ...
When you stepped off that ship ...
Well ...
.....
... to pay that money back?
How are you planning ...
...the total is already 6.68 mil. yen.
Tell me ...

...
because you incurred your debt by gambling.
But that won't work in your case ...
... and your debt is cleared.
You go to the courthouse, declare you can't pay ...
Personal bankruptcy is popular these days...
裁判所


Of course ...
Your claim would be denied.
... the courts don't see fit to extend their protection.
Whenever there's a moral problem, or an ethical problem with the person's lifestyle ...

.....
We're always gonna collect on our debts ...
... it doesn't matter what the courts decide, one way or another.
So tell me what you're gonna do ...
.....

.....
How will you pay us back ...?
Ngh ...
You just don't get it ...
Hehehe ...
I'll work ...!
Pain in the neck ...
Have you tried running the numbers ...?
... a 7 mil. yen debt ...
For someone in your position ...
900 yen an hour at the convenience store, 9 hours a day, 26 days a month...
... comes to 210,600 yen a month.
...isn't the kind of money you can pay back by working hard.

Huh ...?
... how long do you think it would take to pay us back?
... let's say 100,000 yen, if you're lucky.
From that amount you could probably afford to pay...
Hmph ...
Let's see ...
At that rate ...
CHACK
190
CM
M-
M+
8
9
... at 18% monthly annuity will take ...
100,000 a month on 6.68 mil yen ...
CHACK CHACK
By the time your loan is paid back you'll be pushing forty ...
... 16 years and 5 months.
In other words ...
... 197 months.

Living in this apartment, no prospects, no future...
...drifting in your own personal limbo?
Can you wait that long...?

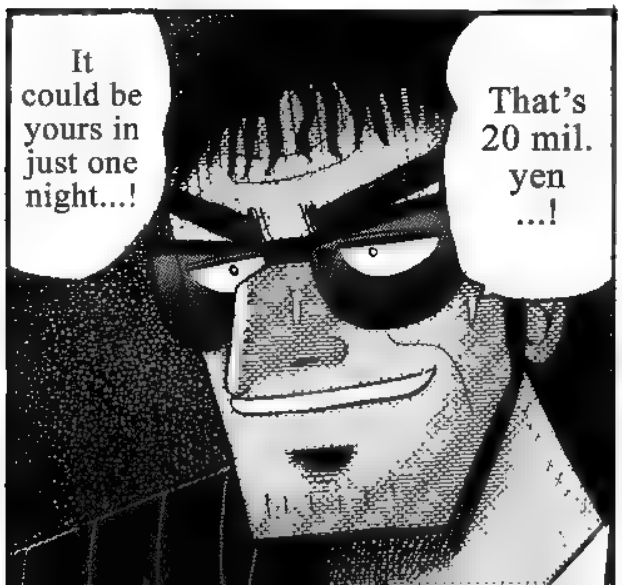
Hehehe
...

THUMP

Ngh
...!
Kaiji
...!

Ask yourself why ...!
The safe route, avoiding risk...
... is for old men with pensions and savings in the bank.
Guys like that ...
... are protecting what they've spent their lives building.
In other words ...
... they've got something to hold onto.
.....
But ...
... to see a young person ...
...to just lie down and wait is preposterous.
The young ...
?.....
... have to reach up, and seize their chance!

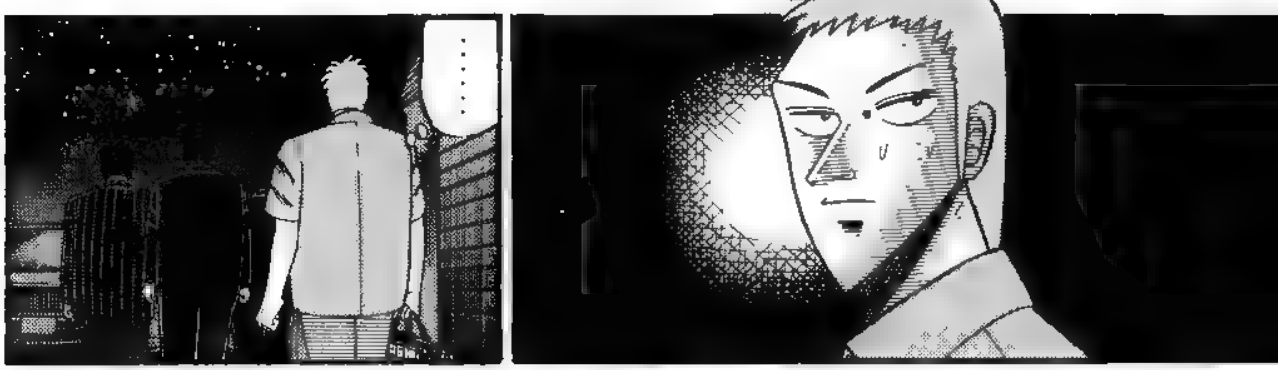
That's the only way to move forward ...!



Ngh ...!
Are you gonna let this chance at salvation pass you by ...?
It could give you a future ...
This money could make you free ...
Why are you hesitating ...?
Kaiji ...!
Nnggghhh...!
Seize the chance ...!
Uncross those arms ...
... and grab onto life!

End of Chapter 57

Chapter 58: Rally Call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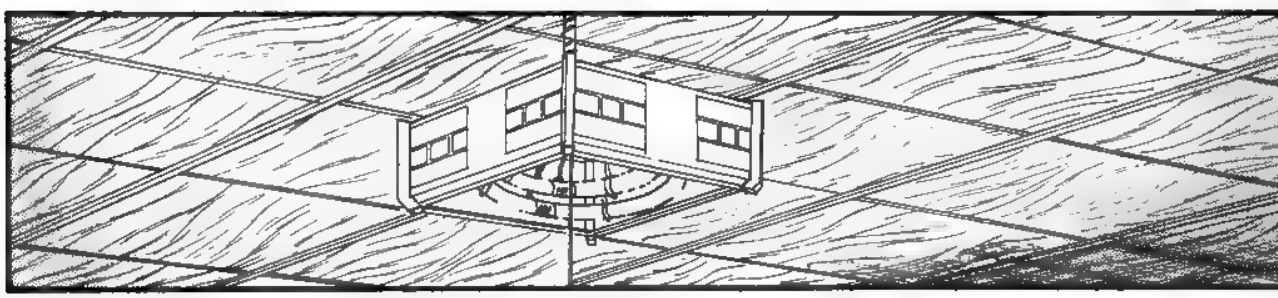
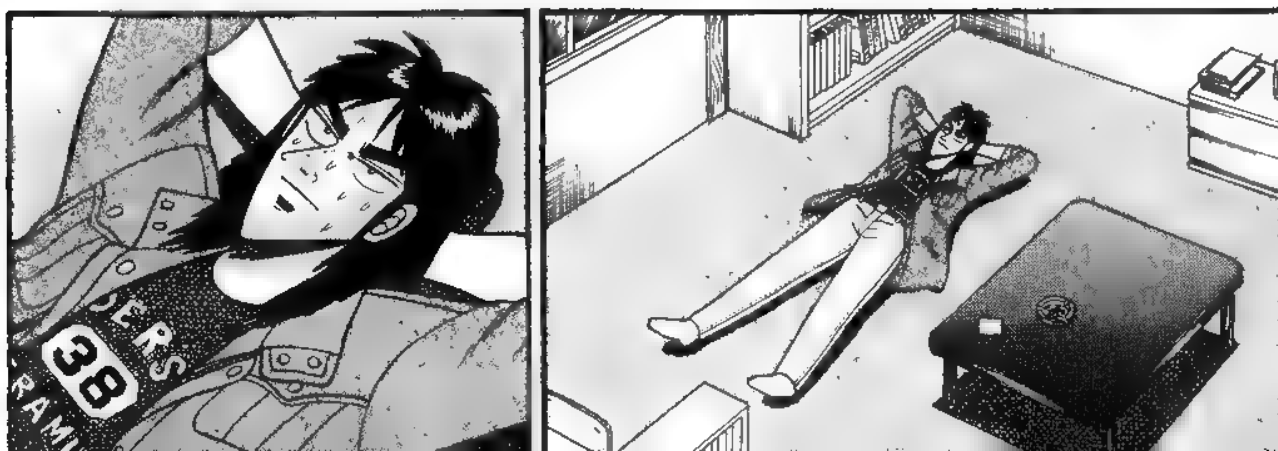



38

This money is your future ...!
What need is there to hesitate ...?
Are you gonna let this chance at salvation pass you by ...?
HUP
It feels like something's welling up inside me...
I keep pacing the room ...
I can't hold still anymore since he left.
... and it wants to burst free!
.....

... that feeling is still there!
Even if I refuse Endo ...
... and gave his speech.
It's been there ever since Endo showed up ...
It's like a fire has been lit in my chest ...
This feeling ...
Can you believe it ...
Geez ...
The truth ...
My stomach almost leapt out of my mouth, I was so excited
Just when I thought they'd finally come...he offers a reprieve ...
... get to me.
I actually let that creep, Endo ...
.....
... that this time ...
...I've been swearing myself, over and over again...
Ever since Endo left ...
It's not even a question of 'yes' or 'no.'

... I won't fail!

... to break free of this cage that I've been living in.
I don't see any way

... but Endo's absolutely right.
I hate to say it ...
.....

... just sent me a lifeboat.

... in an endless sea of despair, day after meaningless day, but Endo...

it's like I've been drowning ...
I'm out of options.

And it's shining a ray of hope...!

The Starside Hotel.
Place: 10 minutes by car from Shin-Keiyo Station, Keiyo Shintoshin.
Time: July 13th, 9 PM.
10 minutes by car
Come...
To the stars.

...with your own two hands.
But once you're up there, you're the one who's gotta grab them...
I'll write the time and the place down here...
...then come!
If you're willing to show us what you've got
I'm gonna carry you up to the stars, kid...

Come ...!

More wreckage left over in the wake of the crash.
A ghost town ...

... with barely a human shadow in sight.
As a result, only the towering buildings remain ...

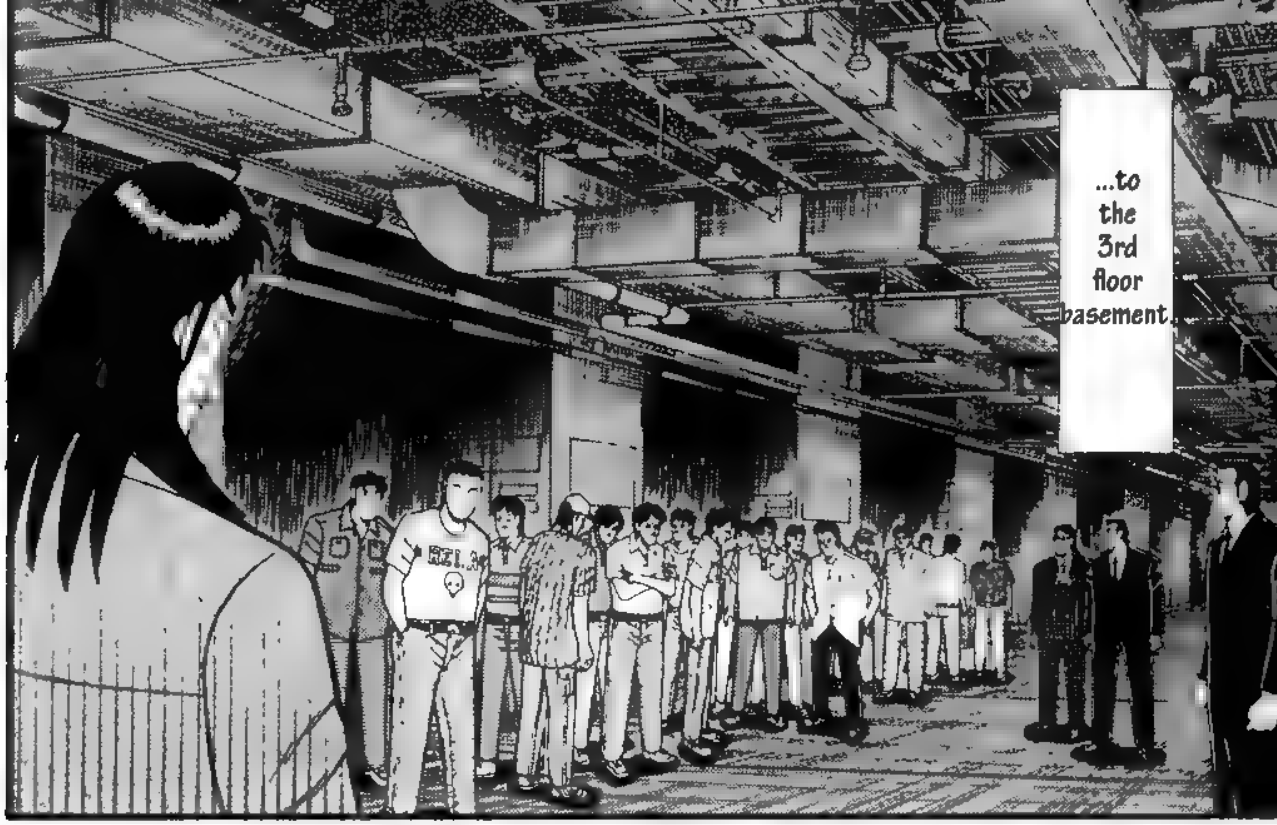
... the appointed place.
... bordering the very edge of the sea, stands the hotel ...
But on the eastern shore of Keiyo Shintoshin ...

Keiyo Shintoshin.
July 13th, the appointed day.

... but when that bubble burst ...
... plans for the city burst with it.
It was developed during the economic bubble...
... now nearly devoid of people.
An artificial, planned city ...

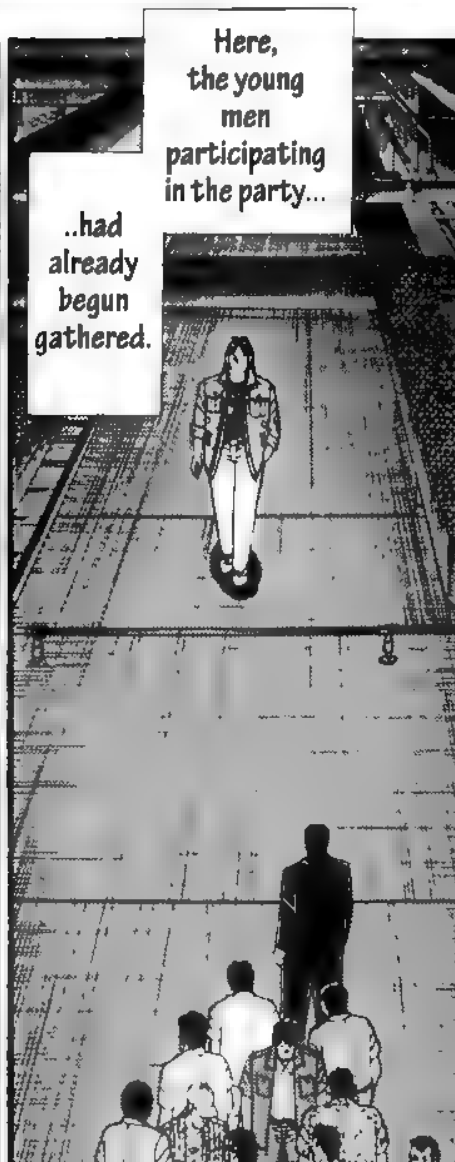
The Starside Hotel...!

Never open...
The hotel stood, beckoning Kaiji and the others towards the stars.
.....
.....
...the main entrance stood mute and bolted.
...but underground.
.....
In the end, it wasn't to the lobby or to a room they led him...
PAT PAT
...still further underground ...
One floor... two floors...
To the underground parking...


...to the 3rd floor basement...

Hehehe ...

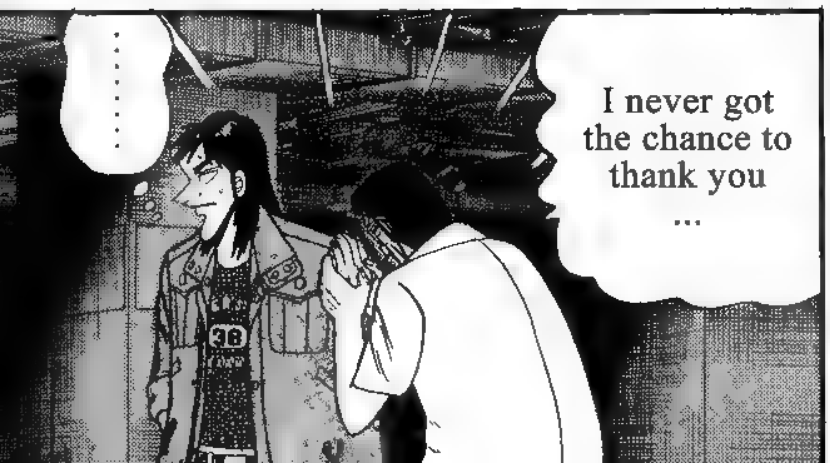
.....


Here, the young men participating in the party...
..had already begun gathered.

Kaiji-kun...?

We finally meet again ...
I'm so happy ...!

Kaiji-kun ...!
Pops ...

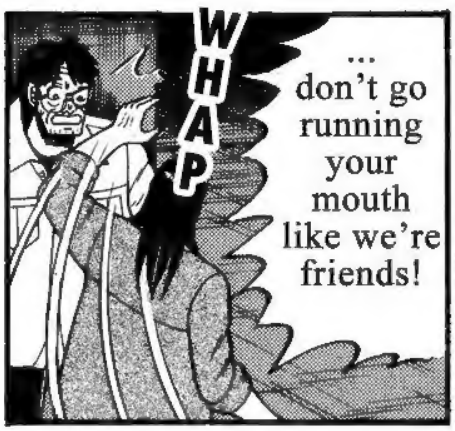

.....
I never got the chance to thank you ...

Kaiji-kun ...
... isn't gonna put money in the bank!
Thanks from some deadbeat old man ...
Get off ...!
I don't know how I can begin ...
B-But still ...
.....
Tough as nails ...
HAHAHA
.....
We should form a team ...!
... we can tackle this thing ...
If we stick together from the start ...
The two of us can do this ...!

Woah ...!
UNNPH
LUNGE
St-Stop ...!
Ngh ...!
SMASH

I don't know you, you don't know me ...
There's no team here ...!
We're worse than strangers now ...
I'll say this only once ...!

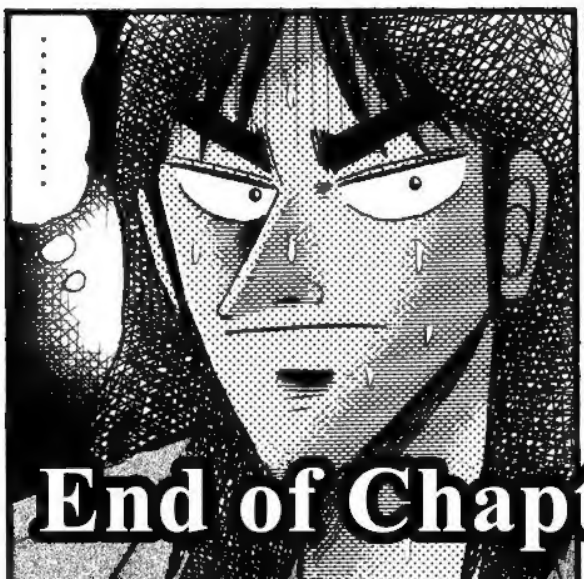
... we're enemies!


WHAP
... don't go running your mouth like we're friends!

And next time ...
Don't forget it...!

.....

SWOOSH
Hehehe
.....
Sahara, is that you ...?
.....
We're enemies now, hear...!?
The same goes for you ...!
Kaiji-san ...
Hmph ...
You hear what I said ...?
Cool it, already ...



End of Chapter 58

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